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**GARDENING
FOR THE IGNORANT**



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THE MACMILLAN CO. OF CANADA, LTD.

TORONTO

GARDENING FOR THE IGNORANT

BY

MRS. C. W. EARLE

(*Author of "Pot-Pourri from a Surrey Garden," &c*)

AND

ETHEL CASE

MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED
ST. MARTIN'S STREET, LONDON

1915

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First Edition, 1912. Reprinted, 1915.

*To those appealed to by Keats in the following Sonnet
we Dedicate this little book :*

To one who has been long in city pent
'Tis very sweet to look into the fair
And open face of heaven,—to breathe a prayer
Full in the smile of the blue firmament.
Who is more happy when, with heart's content,
Fatigued he sinks into some pleasant lair
Of heavy grass, and reads a debonair
And gentle tale of love and languishment,
Returning home at evening, with an ear
Catching the notes of Philomel—an eye
Watching the sailing cloudlets' bright career,
He mourns that day so soon has glided by,
E'en like the passage of an angel's tear
That falls through the clear ether silently.

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INTRODUCTION

“Yet how æsthetic is Nature !”

“Every spot that is entirely uncultivated and wild, however small it may be, if only the hand of man remains absent, clothes itself with plants, flowers, and shrubs, whose unforced nature and natural grace bear witness that they have not grown up under the rod of correction of the great egoist, but that Nature has here moved freely. Upon this rests the principle of the English garden, which is to conceal Art, so that it may appear as if Nature had here moved freely ; for only then is it perfectly beautiful.”—A. SCHOPENHAUER.

IT seems almost preposterous that, with all the number of garden books, large and small, good and bad, dear and cheap, that have been published of late, I should still feel there is a want and that I should try to supply it. The fact is, that none of those books that I have seen begin quite enough at the beginning, and they presuppose a knowledge that many are without. My friend, Ethel Case, who last year had to arrange and plant a garden of her own in Hampshire, discovered that her ignorance

INTRODUCTION

of the vegetable garden was very difficult to dispel ; all the books she consulted gave vague directions, but none took the anxious, groping amateur by the hand to lead him over the first most difficult stage. Both of us, having many times been asked most elementary questions by gardening friends, began to consult garden books from the point of view of a beginner, and we at once realised how little they would help any one absolutely destitute of any gardening knowledge. As an example, a friend wrote : "I have never yet found a book full enough and yet simple enough for such as myself, who want to know how to try all sorts of things, and have no real knowledge of ordinary gardening. Most books presuppose both knowledge and experience in their readers. I hope you will explain technical terms—they are Greek to the ignorant : words like 'compost,' 'sharp sand,' 'quick-lime,' 'suckers,' 'cuttings,' 'light manure,' 'suitable shelter,' &c." Catalogues are hardly less puzzling, with their long lists of varieties and fancy names and the garden terminology, which is unintelligible to people who are town-bred. In these days garden cities are growing up in many directions and becoming more and more popular. I wondered,

when driving through one this beautiful Summer of 1911, how it would be for those coming out of a great smoky town, and knowing nothing of the country, what they would do, and how they would manage to make beautiful and utilise the small plots of ground allotted to them, how they would know how to turn their bare walls and palings into something beautiful and so add to the interest of their lives by understanding how to cultivate what would grow around them. One thing that turns amateur gardening almost into a profession, and with the same beneficial consequences, is that it cannot be postponed. Nothing really does quite as well that is not done just at the right moment. To learn this right moment is one of the chief occupations of the amateur.

My friend and I decided that we would write a book together, I with my greater experience, she with practical knowledge from doing work herself. We have worked together, hardly knowing which is hers and which is mine, talking over difficulties and deciding what would be the best help for those we have in our minds. Sometimes we use the pronoun "I," when speaking of personal experiences.

We have divided the book into the months of the year, as being on the whole the simplest plan ; but there is no magic in it. What cannot be done in January must be done in February, and so on throughout the year, except of course in the case of taking in tender plants in the autumn, when procrastination is fatal should warm weather change to an early frost.

We have named a good many vegetables not always grown, or at any rate not eaten, for, as a gardener once said to me with a sad voice, "I bring them all in, Ma'am, but the cook throws them into the pig tub." As we are keen Vegetarians, or rather Fruitarians, in its largest sense, feeding on nothing but what grows out of the ground, with the exception of milk and eggs, the vegetables and fruits have peculiar interest for us. Gardening to a certain extent must be done by oneself, or one never gets a real interest in it. I remember some years ago taking some seedlings to a neighbour, and I said, "They must be put in at once" ; she replied, "Oh ! I am so sorry, my man is just gone." I answered, "Give me a trowel, and I will put them in." This gave her the idea, as she told me afterwards, that she could do things for herself, and she

is now an excellent gardener. It is extraordinary, the objection there still seems to be, especially in the suburbs, against women doing the work in the garden ; as an old woman remarked to my friend, when she told her that when she went to live in Hampshire she intended to do her own gardening : “ Well, Miss, there is one thing, no one can say there is anything ladylike about *you*.”

We have been obliged to give plants their Latin names. It is absolutely necessary that all should have botanical names, which are understood in every country, and therefore are used in catalogues and gardening books and papers ; but wherever it exists we have given the old English name as well as the botanical one, having sympathy with the old Scotch lady, who said to a Minister who was admiring her flowers, “ Ah but, Doctor, ye ken the Latin names of a’ the flowers ; I ken but twa and they are just Aurora Borealis and Delirium Tremens.” I am afraid a great many people will think that, after our profession of making things very simple for beginners, we have fallen into the fault of naming far too many plants, but nobody need grow more than they like. We have tried always to name what are easy to cultivate, leaving

out, even in the chapter on the greenhouse, what for any reason with ordinary care is difficult to grow. And even beginners soon pine for variety, which, with careful management, may be attained even in a window garden ; while for those who live much in their home, variety is necessary for succession of bloom.

There is no doubt that gardening takes a great deal of time and thought, and so is not particularly suitable for those who live very busy lives or have great responsibilities for the lives of others ; but there are a great number of people, young, middle-aged, and old, whose lives are not full enough and whose health suffers in consequence. For these, gardening comes as a Heaven-sent blessing and a cure for body and mind. For those who have little time or money to spend on a garden, the health of a few plants, well-grown and cared for, is infinitely preferable to a large number unsatisfactorily grown, whether in pots or out of doors. I think a garden of grass and flowering shrubs gives the best return for the least trouble and expense, and it will suffer least from being neglected during any absence from home, which is a very serious drawback if you have a more varied garden,

unless you can leave it in the hands of an experienced gardener.

There are plenty of books to interest and instruct amateurs once they begin to have some experience. It is generally believed that it takes six or seven years to make a good garden, but this is a great exaggeration ; much pleasure and a good deal of beauty can be got even the first year, with annuals and perennials that are easy to grow, and the following autumn the beds can be re-arranged or planted for height and harmony of colour. The easiest and most effective is the old cottage garden plan, a straight path down the middle and beds on either side. Among the cheap books and one of the best to get is an old-fashioned one, "The Amateur Gardener," by Mrs. Loudon, revised and edited by W. Robinson, Warne & Co., price 9*d*. The penny series called "One and All," published by The Agricultural & Horticultural Association, Ltd., will be found very useful and more modern ; one more excellent little sixpenny book is the "Calendar of Garden Operations," to be got from the Office of "The Gardeners' Chronicle," 41 Wellington Street, Covent Garden, W.C. With the help of these inexpensive books and the taking

in of a penny newspaper, "The Garden" or "Garden Life," or for vegetable and general information about the country, "The Small Holder," you can go on learning week by week. For those who mean to take gardening seriously, some fuller, more expensive books will be necessary later on. "The English Flower Garden," by W. Robinson, John Murray, 15s., is a great help for beginners; the second edition is the most useful, as nearly every flower is illustrated, but I am afraid this is out of print, though it can be got sometimes at second-hand book shops. "Gardening for Beginners," by E. T. Cook, 10s. 6d., "Country Life Library," is full of easily understood instruction. A garden dictionary is almost indispensable, either "The Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening," edited by George Nicholson, L. Upcott Gill, eight volumes, or Cassell's "Dictionary of Gardening," in two volumes. For vegetables, Sutton of Reading, publishes a book called "Culture of Vegetables and Flowers," 5s., which is excellent to begin with; if more is wanted. W. Robinson's translation of the Paris Horticulturist, Vilmorin's, "Vegetable Garden," describes minutely every vegetable ever grown.

We have suggested the names of books that we

have found useful and recommended the names of bulb and seed firms and nurseries whom we have dealt with and have found satisfactory, and for no other reason. I feel it is necessary to state this simple fact, as, when I first wrote about diet, I used to be asked what the vegetarian doctors gave me for puffing them. The principle of our book is to describe each month the work that has to be done, and not on the lines of describing the beauty of spring, summer, or autumn. Throughout the book reference will be made to what is called the Reserve Garden ; this is a desirable luxury for those who have room, and a great help for enabling them to keep the mixed borders gay throughout the year. It means a piece of ground somewhere out of sight in the kitchen garden or behind a hedge, which must be open to air and sunshine for some part of the day. This can be stocked with tall Phloxes, *Sedum spectabile*, early-flowering chrysanthemums, spiræas, shrubby and herbaceous plants, etc. These can all be moved into their flowering places in July or August ; a small plot, in half shade, must be reserved for Polyanthus, forget-me-nots and *Silenes* ; these last two will sow themselves and the young plants can be moved where they are

to flower in October ; when clearing the beds in the autumn Phlox, Michaelmas daisies, and sedums are put back into the reserve garden. Cuttings of roses, lavender, rosemary, lilac suckers, and cuttings of hardy shrubs can also be put in the reserve garden and left there to grow till they are wanted.

A great many people seem to me to be afraid of their gardeners. These leave their gardens entirely under the control of the gardener, which results in a very uninteresting sameness, bedding out plants as a rule being repeated year after year, he naturally resents any interference from those who know less than he does himself. Many people, ignorant of gardening, make unreasonable demands, expecting the same flowers as they see in their neighbours' gardens, having made no provision by ordering the necessary bulbs and seeds in the proper season. This usually results in the gardener losing heart and becoming indifferent. On the other hand, some gardeners seem to consider the garden belongs to them and like to plant it entirely in their own way, with very little knowledge of colour or form, or the countries from which the plants come. The solution of both these difficulties seems to me first to cure your own

ignorance and then to share your knowledge with your gardener ; the more you know, the more you gain his respect.

Gardening is proverbially the greatest assistance to health of mind and body ; it is far healthier and more interesting than spending the summer days sitting in the garden and then ignoring it for the rest of the year. One of the great artists of the world, Michael Angelo, says, " Nothing makes the soul so pure, so religious, as the endeavour to create something perfect, for God is Perfection. Whoever strives for perfection, strives for something that is God-like." People cannot really love their gardens unless they take some part in producing them ; even an invalid can learn enough to teach someone who can do the practical work. Gardening is not a creative art, like painting and sculpture, but it develops an effort towards perfection—the plant is taken from its native climate and surroundings and the gardener has to see that it does not suffer, indeed it gains perhaps greater perfection than on its Alpine slope or Californian plain. I wish to encourage very much the introduction into gardens of the best of our English wild flowers, such as the blue geranium, the heaths, the larger celandine, the

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wild yellow toad flax, and perhaps above all the Evening Primrose, which is not indigenous ; its native country is America, but it has, I believe, become a wild plant in parts of England from its habit of sowing itself everywhere ; for this reason many turn it out of their gardens as a weed, but in spring it is quite easy to pull any of the seedlings that are not wanted out of borders or shrubberies. The French popular name for it is "*Belle de Nuit*," a name well deserved, as I know nothing more lovely than the tall *Oenothera*, Evening Primrose, shining in the twilight of a summer's evening. Mr. Bright wrote years ago, in his "English Flower Garden," "I wonder if the Evening Primrose is as much grown as it deserves to be. It is mentioned little, if at all, by our old botanists, it opens its yellow blossoms night after night from early summer to late autumn. It is a curious sight to see the blossoms begin to open. I had been in the garden shortly after six and the yellow buds were still folded within the calyx ; watching closely, you saw the petals give a sudden start, they half released themselves, and, by degrees, opened fully into the blossom, which will last till morning, but begins to fade after the sun has dried up the dews

of night." Keats, whose accurate observation of flowers is often very remarkable, speaks of

"A tuft of Evening Primroses
O'er which the mind may hover till it dozes,
O'er which it well might take a pleasant sleep,
But that 'tis ever startled by the leap
Of buds into ripe flowers!"

I have made a considerable study of packing flowers to send away to friends, hospitals, bazaars, etc., and it may be useful to some to know that Mr. Cobbett, High Street, Guildford, Surrey, makes the most splendid long baskets, all sizes, designed by Miss Jekyll, but old boxes from linen-draper's shops or even newspapers answer very well for those who carry them away. The whole secret in summer is to pick the flowers over-night, and put them in a pail or foot-bath of water, dry them carefully next morning and then wrap up each bunch fairly tight in newspaper, hiding the flowers completely, as that makes them air-tight ; then all these bundles go into the basket or box carefully dovetailed, or, if in paper, then the outside paper is tied tight at each end and round the middle, and this forms an air-tight basket easy to carry. Flowers should never be carried to town in a bunch,

with a bit of paper round the stalks and showing all the blooms, it is very pretty and even pleasant for the bearer to have a sweet country posy, but very unpractical for the receiver.

A great many people seem to think that the attitude of a gardener should be a selfish one. I do not at all agree with this, and always found, in my early gardening days, that every one was most delighted to give me anything I wanted. I have been thankful for this, as I now have the pleasure of distributing plants to others every autumn, and this is a very real joy, though a great deal of trouble. There are a few people who think they ought to keep to themselves any rare specimens they happen to possess. Of course there are certain things one cannot be expected to give away—bulbs and shrubs and plants which make a big tap root and no suckers, but most of these can be propagated from seeds or cuttings by anyone who has a frame or heated greenhouse. I think the real gardening spirit is shown by a wish to give away a part of what one values oneself and so increase the knowledge of variety, both in greenhouse and garden. It is a very good rule to accept flowers, plants, and cuttings whenever they are offered you, as with a

little extra care and attention in the way of watering and shading, if in summer, they succeed very well; whereas if left till the correct time for moving they are apt to be forgotten by both the giver and receiver. Every one should wish his garden and his home to have their own individuality ; I quite agree that life in the country would be dull unless we prided ourselves on our own possessions. At the same time one should bear in mind the old saying, “ Be useful where thou livest, that they may both want and wish thy presence still.”

MARIA THERESA EARLE.

WOODLANDS,
COBHAM, SURREY.
1912.

GARDENING FOR THE IGNORANT

CHAPTER I

JANUARY

“Among the links between man’s mind and Nature we may place, as one of the most obvious, man’s earliest attempt to select and group from her scattered varieties of form that which—at once a poem and a picture—forms, as it were, the decorated borderland between man’s home and Nature’s measureless domains, *The Garden.*”—**BULWER LYTTON.**

I AM often asked why I stay in the country in the Winter, but as no garden can be left for a month without some injury, anyone who is a real gardener has plenty to do all the year round, August being the only comparatively slack month, whereas January in the South of England is an especially important one. During the fifteen years I have lived in Surrey all the year round, the Winters may have been especially mild but we have never failed to sow green peas out of doors between January 15th and 20th.

The seed catalogues are published in the Winter and should be asked for by those not on the seedsmen’s books, and lists should be made out as soon as they arrive, the first week in January if

possible. I can most strongly state that vegetables should come from one of the three or four best English seedsmen, Barr, Carter, Sutton, or Veitch, and in ordering remember that the giant kinds have been introduced for exhibition and have less flavour, and in light soils do less well, than the smaller old-fashioned kinds ; it seems to be Nature's revenge that over-cultivation destroys the flavour of vegetables and the scent of flowers, witness the latest type of sweet pea and cyclamen which are almost scentless. Before making your flower list, go round the garden and try to realise how much room there will be left in the beds for annuals after the perennials are up ; remember that the Spring flowering bulbs will be over by the time you sow and the spaces they leave can be filled up by annuals.

There are two kinds of annuals : hardy, which can be sown where they are to bloom any time during March, and half-hardy, which need protection until the middle of May. If you have a frame or greenhouse you will be able to sow half-hardy seeds in March, and in any case they can be sown out of doors in May, but in this case they need careful thinning and flower rather late. The following is a list of hardy annuals which last in bloom for some time ; both the botanical and the popular names are given as some seedsmen give only the botanical name—of course some flowers have no popular name.

For reliable and unusual flower seeds we have always found Thompson & Morgan, of Ipswich, excellent. Their catalogue of choice seeds is very clear and instructive.

For penny-packet seeds Ryder of St. Albans is the specialist. His catalogue is worth studying as the number of seeds sold for a penny is a great indication of what is easy to grow and what is difficult; it is also a great convenience where a variety of seeds are wanted to be able to buy such cheap packets.

HARDY ANNUALS.

Candytuft (*Iberis umbellata*), lilac, white or crimson, height one foot. Cornflower (*Centaurea Cyanus*), blue, height two and a half feet. Larkspur (*Delphinium Ajacis*), blue, white, and pink, height two and a half feet. Love-in-a-mist (*Nigella*), blue and green, height one foot. Mignonette (*Reseda odorata*), red and green, height one foot. Sweet peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*), mixed colours, height six feet. Virginian Stock (*Malcolmia maritima*), mixed, height three-quarter foot. Night Scented Stock (*Matthiola tristis*), lilac, strongly scented at night, closed during the day, height one foot. Poppy (*Papaver*), Shirley, mixed, height one and a half feet, single. *Papaver somniferum*, red, white, and mauve, height one and a half feet, double. *Clarkia*, pink and white, height two feet. *Collinsia*, mauve and white, height one foot.

Lupin *Hartwegii*, sky blue, height two feet. Mallow Wort (*Malope*), pink and white, height three feet. *Limnanthes Douglasii*, yellow, height three-quarter foot, *Helichrysum monstrosum*, everlastings, mixed, two feet.

HALF-HARDY ANNUALS.

French Marigold (*Tagetes patula*), brown and yellow, height two feet. *Tagetes signata*, height one foot. African Marigold (*Tagetes erecta*), yellow and orange, height two and half feet. *Salpiglossis sinuata grandiflora*, mixed, height three-quarter foot. *Petunia hybrida alba*, white and pink, height one foot. *Phlox Drummondii grandiflora*, mixed, height three-quarter foot. Stock (*Matthiola annua*) mixed, height one foot. *Scabiosa atropurpurea*, mixed, height three feet. Indian Pink (*Dianthus sinensis*), mixed, height three-quarter foot. *Salvia patens*, blue, height two feet. *Lobelia cardinalis*, red, height two feet. *Lobelia ramosa*, blue, height three-quarter foot. Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*) (mixed trailer). Margaret Carnation (*Dianthus Margaritæ*), mixed, height one and a quarter feet. *Lobelia Erinus*, (any of them but *compacta*), blue trailer; *Nemesia strumosa*, mixed, height one foot. Musk (*Mimulus moschatus*), yellow, height three-quarter foot. Tobacco plant (*Nicotiana affinis*), white, height two and a half feet; *Zinnia elegans*, mixed, height two feet.

BIENNIALS.

These are plants which flower the year after they are sown and die after flowering. They are sown during the late Spring and Summer to flower the following year. The most useful are:—
Cheiranthus Allionii, height one foot. Common Wallflowers (*Cheiranthus*), yellow, red, and brown, height one and a half feet. Forget-me-nots (*Myosotis*), blue and white, height half a foot. Primroses (*Primula vulgaris*), mixed, height half a foot. Polyanthus (*Primula elatior*), mixed, height one foot. Canterbury Bells (*Campanula Medium*), mixed, height two and a half feet. *Gaillardia grandiflora*,¹ red and yellow, height two feet. *Coreopsis grandiflora*,¹ yellow, height three feet. Sweet Rocket (*Hesperis*), mauve and white, height three feet. Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum*), mixed, height two and a half feet. Honesty (*Lunaria*), white and crimson, height two and a half feet. *Silene compacta*, pink, height half a foot. Daisies (*Bellis perennis*), height half a foot. Sweet William (*Dianthus barbatus*), mixed, height one and a half feet. Foxgloves (*Digitalis purpurea* and *alba*), purple and white, height four feet.

Hardy Perennials are plants which live through the Winter out of doors and flourish and increase if properly cared for year after year. The follow-

¹ These two are really perennials, but are best treated as biennials in light soil.

ing are easy to grow from seed and should be sown in the first week in July:—

Delphiniums, blue, height six feet. *Dictamnus Fraxinella (albus)*, height two feet. *Doronicum Pardalianches*,¹ yellow, height three feet. *Lupinus polyphyllus* and *albus*, blue and white, height three feet. *Aubrietia Eyrei*, mauve, height half a foot. *Alyssum saxatile*, yellow, height half a foot. *Helenium Bigelovii*, yellow, height two feet. *Violas* mixed, height half a foot. Pinks (*Dianthus cæsius*), pink, height half a foot. Pinks (*Dianthus deltoides*), rose purple, height half a foot. Pinks (*Dianthus superbus*), rose purple, height one foot. Hollyhocks (*Althæa*), mixed, height five feet. *Linaria dalmatica*, yellow, height three feet. Pansies (*Violas tricolor maxima*), mixed, height half a foot. *Campanula persicifolia*, blue and white, height two feet. *Campanula pyramidalis*, blue and white, height three feet. *Campanula carpatica*, blue and white, height one foot. Columbines (*Aquilegia hybrida*), mixed, height two feet. *Pyrethrum hybridum*, height one and a half feet. Poppies (*Papaver orientale*), three feet.

All herbaceous perennials die down, and if the flower stems are cut off leave little trace of their existence, during the Winter. Other perennials leave a tuft of growth, and can be distinguished all the year round.

¹ This must be sown in a pan and left, as it often takes a year to come up.

Before ordering the vegetable seeds, it is well to make inquiries from some local gardener, or a workman who has a garden or allotment as to what kind of onions, kale, cabbage, etc., do best. Most seed catalogues explain which have to be sown and planted in Spring and which in July or September.

VEGETABLE SEEDS.

Peas, dwarf and tall, early, medium and late, Broad Beans, tall runner Beans, dwarf French Beans, Broccoli, Kale, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Kohl Rabi, Savoy Cabbage, Carrots early for forcing (French Horn), Carrots Intermediate, Cauliflower early and late, Celery, Celeriac, Cucumber (Telegraph or Abbot's Prolific) Cucumber ridge or hardy for outdoors, Endive Leek, Lettuce (Cos and Cabbage), Onions early and for keeping, Parsley, Parsnip, Radish, Salsify, Spinach round or Summer, Spinach prickly or Winter, Turnip early, white and golden ball for Winter, Vegetable marrow, cluster or green bush Rampion, Mustard and Cress, Chervil, Corn Salad, Sage, Mint, Purslane, Sorrel, Thyme, Savory Winter and Summer, Beet-root (Egyptian, Turnip rooted and Globe), Watercress, Sorrel (French and English), Sugar Corn or Maize (Early dwarf).

Even the smallest garden should have a hot-bed if possible, as it simplifies the propagation of so many plants and the growing of seeds early in the year. No book that we could find in either

of our Gardening Libraries gave a sufficiently detailed account of how a hot-bed should be made, though nearly all mentioned them. A professional gardener will of course understand the construction, but we hope the following description will enable any amateur to have a successful hot-bed, as a labourer could carry out the work if properly taught. At least two cartloads of fresh stable manure and dead leaves in about equal quantities is needed for a full sized double frame. Put it in a heap and turn it every other day for three or four days, moisten if it is dry. Measure the frame and mark the corners with stakes. Place a layer of the material along the top and bottom and sides of the bed in a direct line with the stakes and then proceed to fill up the interior of the bed, beating it down with a fork. A bed made in January should be four feet high at the back and three feet six inches high in front, while one made later may be six inches in depth. Either of them will sink to about half. A good fall from back to front allows the maximum of sun to reach the interior of the frame. As soon as the bed is finished the frame may be placed on the top (which should be six inches deep) and the soil thrown in. The heat is judged by a stick being thrust in and left for half an hour when its heat will tell you if it is on the increase or decrease. The seeds must not be sown until the bed begins to cool a little. It must be ventilated every day

to let off the foul air. A thermometer for the inexperienced gardener simplifies judging the heat. The heat to be registered by a thermometer is 80° F. in the soil, and 70° in the atmosphere. Directly the heat begins to lessen from 85° it is safe to sow. After the seeds are sown the glass must be kept shaded from a too fierce sun and a little air let in during the middle of every day. A Spring hot-bed will not require much watering, but should never be allowed to get quite dry.

If you have a double frame use one half for flowers and the other for vegetables. If you have only one small frame you must decide what you can best do without. The flower seeds which should be sown at once are both blue and red *Lobelias*, Snapdragons, *Salvia patens*, Margaret carnations. (For the flower seeds, if you do not want many plants it is a good plan to sow them in pots very thinly and sink the pots up to the rim in the soil of the hot-bed.) Sprinkle some fine sand over the surface of the bed and water the soil well all over. Sow your seeds in lines four inches wide and the seeds should be sprinkled very thinly. Remember that each seedling will need quite four inches of room in which to grow. Only cover the seeds slightly and press down the soil quite evenly. (Sand is bought by the load from a builder or by the cwt. from a corn merchant.)

If you have no tools buy only the best; a spade

and fork which are not of good hard iron will turn at the edge and bend. If the garden is worked by a jobbing gardener he may bring his own tools. Spades and forks are sold in a light make in the best quality for those who cannot use a heavy tool.

If there are any old trees and shrubs to be taken up you will need a small mattock. Tools that one cannot do without are Dutch hoe or draw-hoe, a rake, a sharp spade, a fork, two or three trowels of different shapes, a dibber, a small hand fork for weeding, a spudder for taking the weeds out of lawns ; a light shovel is also very useful. A barrow can be made any size to suit the strength of the user, and garden baskets, called trugs, are almost a necessity. The watering cans sold in Paris are a much more comfortable shape than the English. They are flat at the sides and the handles go from the spout to the back. They are sold at the Bon Marché and can be ordered by post. A good knife, a pair of strong secateurs, and a small saw are all necessary. The most expensive things to buy are rollers and mowing machines, these can sometimes be bought at a local sale. You need not have a large stock of tools but there are a few not in general use which may be added to the usual list. One is a large tin sugar scoop, it holds so much and saves time in potting to carry sand or fine earth, a housemaid's kneeler is very useful, as it is much less tiring to kneel than to stoop, a good kneeler can be made

at home out of a sack doubled and filled with shavings, a piece of old carpet would serve the same purpose. A reel and line are always wanted in the Kitchen Garden and a strong wire sieve for sifting soil, wood, or coal ashes. Pea guards are useful for all seed beds, three or four rows of black cotton stretched between sticks along the seed drills are nearly as efficacious.

A new garden generally means one left by the builders with the beds full of brick rubbish. In an old garden the first thing to do is to decide how much grass you will have and how much is to be left of what is already there. If the flower beds are in the wrong places, in front of shrubs or dotted about in a meaningless way, they should be done away with at once and new ones made where you want them. If you cut your beds out of the lawn have them square or long to facilitate the mowing and in leaving grass paths take the measurement so that it can be single or double the width of your mowing machine. (For garden tools see page 10). Sometimes the gravel path goes right up to the wall of the house. This is always a pity, as creepers need a good bed to grow in and it is also desirable to have flowers under one's windows. Whether the beds are already there and badly made or have to be entirely new, the best way is to have them dug out at least four feet in depth. Except on very light soils or on a high situation, six inches of brick rubbish or

cinders should be put at the bottom, then some rough earth, such as grass turves, broken up and put grass side down and battened down. If the soil is poor you must next fill in with farmyard manure and the best fine soil goes on the top. In cutting beds in the grass peg out the size and put a line round them, cut the turf with a cutter into strips eighteen inches by eight inches, and slide a sharp spade four inches below the surface so as to take the turf up in slabs. The best of these can be used to patch any bare places in the grass or to make new grass paths, the bad pieces would be dug into the beds. When one buys or rents a garden it is very necessary to find out first the nature of the soil. You will probably be told it is sandy loam because this is the best, but your better plan is to judge for yourself, dig up a good spadeful and examine it. A chalk soil is lumpy and almost white, very powdery in dry weather, and very sticky in wet, it is a difficult soil to work and suits very few plants, but a good deal may be done by deep digging and putting in plenty of decayed vegetable matter.

If the soil is yellow and does not crumble up in the hand but sticks together like putty it is clay and very heavy and impossible to work on in wet weather. Clay soil must be very well drained and the beds made high in the centre, wood ashes, long manure (which means fresh stable manure which has straw with it), gas lime, road scrapings,

and sand are all good for clay and make it more workable. Peat soil is dark brown and very clean to handle, there is usually white sand mixed with it and fibrous roots, it is excellent for growing heaths, rhododendrons, azaleas, lilies, and many other plants, but will need quicklime to bring out its nourishing qualities. Sandy soil is yellow and runs through your fingers, near towns it is dark grey and very poor, in either case it will need a great deal mixed with it before you can succeed with roses and the coarse growing perennials ; annuals if well watered do fairly well even in poor soil. Add all you can in the way of nourishment if your soil is sandy, and dig in leaves and herbaceous stuff, grass, cabbage stalks, and pea haulms before they are rotted. If the soil is easy to dig, a good deep brown in colour, feels greasy to the touch, and has a few small stones in it, you are pretty sure of having the real sandy loam, and this will need very little manure and is suitable for most plants. Green sand is the best soil of all ; everything grows in it, it corresponds to the French General's description of the British Infantry, "Magnificent ! Only there is very little of it." Any geological map will show you where it is and how little there is of it, geologically it is a formation under the Chalk and the Chalk was only here and there rubbed off during the Glacial period. Beds of good soil can be made almost level with the path ; when cut out of grass they

need no edging ; for others, flat stones are best, over which low growing plants delight to spread and if the paths are gravel they will quickly root there. Bricks put edgeways make a good edging, unless you can wait to grow a live one in which case box is the best of all; the young plants should be put in during the Spring. This requires to be well kept and trimmed, and it takes nourishment out of the soil and prevents your having low growing plants at the front of your beds, and harbours snails and other insects. This last is not an objection, as you can catch the insects in the day-time. Another kind of border to beds cut out of a lawn is a band of flat cement about six inches wide laid round the bed to allow small plants to spread over it without interfering with mowing the grass path or lawn; this saves a great deal of labour in trimming the edges of the grass.

The next thing to decide is about the paths. These can be of gravel, paving stones, or bricks. Grass paths are delightful between flower beds, but in Winter they are often wet, and if much walked upon in bad weather they cease to be grass and become mud. It is necessary therefore to have something harder for paths in constant use. Good gravel can be got fairly cheap in the South of England, usually about six shillings to ten shillings a load. Cinders must be laid down below the gravel and the whole well rolled and made higher in the middle than the sides. Broken

paving stones can sometimes be bought near towns or in the country from builders, as they are occasionally taken out of old houses or from courtyards. They must be laid in cement by an experienced workman and the paths must be absolutely level. Brick paths are the most economical if you get the real wire cuts from a brick yard and employ a bricklayer (there is sure to be one out of work in any place) to set them in dry sand, not cement, red tiles are smoother and more expensive and must be laid in cement. Have the paths measured first and order the bricks by the thousand, finding out first what the cartage will be, as this adds considerably to the cost. Many people make the paths in their garden very wide; this is a great waste of space and in small gardens narrow paths two and a half feet wide are all that is necessary.

VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Towards the end of the month the hot-bed will be cool enough and ready for use. The early vegetables to be forced can be sown at once, the largest patch should be of Lettuce, sown rather thickly but quite evenly, this can be cut like Mustard and Cress as soon as it is two or three inches high and makes the most excellent salad. Radishes must be sown very thinly in rows and be well watered. The same with the little early round Carrots—their drills (which means rows),

should have plenty of sand mixed with the soil. A few early Turnips may be sown if you have room. Early Spring Onions can be fairly thick as they are eaten so young, and Mustard and Cress quite thick, in lines three inches wide, with the soil well pressed down and the seed left uncovered. The frame should be kept dark by covering with archangel matting or old carpet while the seeds germinate, and never allowed to get dry. After the covering is left off in the day-time some protection, such as cane matting or old carpet, must always be put on at night to keep out the frost. During the whole of January every opportunity should be taken to prepare the Kitchen Garden for sowing and planting by deep digging and manuring. The same treatment of soil applies here as in the Flower Garden except that vegetables require a strong soil, so manure of all sorts should be used liberally. Never dig lime and animal manure of any kind in at the same time, as lime causes the ammonia to escape. The best plan is to use lime in the Autumn and manure in the Spring. Leave a patch of good soil unmanured for Beetroot. Most gardens have a large bed of Jerusalem Artichokes. These can be dug up in January and stored in a shed and some of the tubers replanted eighteen inches apart each way. The bed should be well dug and manured, and see that it is in a position where the shelter from the plants will be useful, as they grow

six or eight feet high. If you have none in the garden they must of course be bought. Those sold for eating at the greengrocer's will do quite well. Prickly Spinach may be sown between the rows of Artichokes one and a half inches deep in drills, as it will be up and gathered before the Artichokes begin to grow. Horse Radish can be planted now by cutting the shoots off the old roots and planting them a foot apart in any odd corner. (A very small patch of this will be sufficient, as it spreads very rapidly.) Peas must be sown about January 15th. The drills should be dug two feet deep in a sunny part of the garden and sheltered from cold winds. Fill in one foot with well rotted manure and good soil to within four inches of the level of the bed. Sow the seeds four inches deep and six inches apart. The seeds should be soaked for half an hour in paraffin and the powder of red lead sprinkled over them (as a protection from field mice) before sowing. Wire pea guards can be bought very cheaply and are most useful all the year round for covering every sort of seed and protecting them, not only from birds, but from cats and dogs, and they also show at once where seeds are sown—a most important thing when more than one person works in a garden, as labels are apt to get lost or covered up. If more convenient, the Spinach can be sown between the rows of Peas instead of between the Artichokes and in both places if Spinach is liked.

CHAPTER II

FEBRUARY

"The first pink flowers and lilac buds of the *Daphne*, growing meekly on the brown twigs, filling all the air around with their poignant fragrance. No other scent is like it, combining as it does, with its own peculiar sweetness, a reminder of lemon and orange blossom, and the other vague delicious memories such as scents alone can bring. Over-head in the dark Cedar, a blue wood-pigeon is crooning, and in all the garden reigns happiness and calm."—M. D. ASHLEY DODD.

HOWEVER great the desire to pick when in flower this early *Daphne Mezereum*, it must be resisted or done very sparingly, as any severe cutting of this plant kills it; there are a few early flowering shrubs which, if picked in bud and taken into the greenhouse or a warm room and put in bottles of water after peeling the stalks will flower most beautifully, *Amygdalus Davidiana*, the white Chinese almond, the pink almond, pink and white *Ribes*, *Prunus Pissardii* and *Forsythia suspensa* will all respond to this treatment. There are certain plants which flower in Autumn and early Winter that are best planted in February; *Exogonium Purga*, the Jalap plant, is rarely grown; it flowers in September, and it is best to place it under a south wall near a peach or apricot tree, over which it can grow. *Jasminum nudiflorum* will flower on walls of any aspect, it layers very easily, and the layers

can be taken off in February and planted where they are wanted—cuttings are best made in August. The best time to put manure at the roots is in November, when the buds are opening. This plant is supposed by many to be an old cottage favourite, but as a matter of fact it was not introduced from China before 1844. It is a good town plant and will grow in ordinary soil ; beyond tying or nailing it will need little treatment, as much cutting back is objectionable. Picking it when in flower prunes the young growth sufficiently, but the old wood must be cut out when the plant has done flowering. When a plant has been long established and has become thick and matted, it can be taken up and pulled to pieces and replanted. It is a most precious Winter treasure ; it will flower all the Winter, picked in bud and brought into a warm room it looks most refined and uncommon and such a change from the everlasting shop narcissus or chrysanthemum. The delicious *Chimonanthus fragrans*, which does best on a south or west wall, begins to flower in December ; the flowers, picked and laid on wet moss, scent the whole room.

If you have *Iris stylosa* planted in the garden, you may begin to look for the first buds ; even in January it will throw up a few in favourable years. The flowers develop much better in the house so they should be picked in bud. The *Iris stylosa* must be planted in July, and if you have none it

is well to send your order this month to the nursery as it is now you will feel the need of the flower and if you wait until July you will probably forget them, or, if you remember, there is so much in the garden in the summer that it seems an unnecessary expense. They do not flower well till established, are better in poor soil, and must not be fed and petted. Some people seem to be puzzled about the depth at which to put plants and shrubs. Fortunately, shrubs have as a rule a sort of high-water mark, but where there is none see that all the top roots are at least an inch below the surface of the ground ; in the case of perennials which lose their leaves, do not quite cover the top of the crown with soil, any plant that has leaves near the root, like Canterbury Bells and Primroses, should have the root buried to just below the leaves. Roses and all plants which are grafted should have the part where the graft joins the root covered. In planting anything that has grown too high through being overcrowded, you may put it in as deep as you like provided the lower leaves are not buried. Bulbs are dealt with elsewhere. Tuberous rooted plants are quite different from bulbs. German Irises are not very easy for the beginner to plant ; the thick tuber should be almost on the surface of the ground, when they throw out fibrous roots through which the plant gets its nourishment ; they do not require rich soil but like plenty of sunshine.

The planting of Japanese and English Irises which grow from bulbs is quite simple. These two are best left in the ground; the Japanese requires a great deal of watering in Summer in full sunshine the English like partial shade, the Spanish like full sunshine and a light soil and are best taken up in July and dried.

All plants with a long tap-root like a carrot should have a deep hole made and the soil rammed firmly all round it, Lupins with their twisted roots must have the soil sifted carefully to insure every part of the root being covered and surrounded. This refers of course to planting in general and must not be taken as a suggestion that the plants mentioned are to be put in during February.

If you have any pot plants in the house or have any glass in which there are cuttings of *Pelargoniums* (so-called Geraniums) or anything that is growing too large for its pot, this is a good time to repot them. All pots, new or old, should be soaked and well dried and old pots must be well cleaned before being used, always put some pieces of broken pots at the bottom of each pot and then a piece of old turf or moss to keep the soil from washing out at the bottom and use half leaf-mould (see August) and half loam mixed with sand. Old plants to be repotted must be taken out of the old pots by turning them upside down and striking the edge of the pot against some

hard object (not stone), when the plant will come out like jelly from a mould without disturbing the roots; never tear them, shake out all the soil you can and scratch away a little from the top. Prepare a larger pot with drainage and a little soil, put the plant into the centre and fill in with fine soil, ramming it down with a stick at the sides.

Water everything very sparingly during the Winter, but as the brighter days come, more may be given in the middle of the day.

Some people find it very confusing to hear pots called forty-eight or sixty. This is the explanation. Pots are sold by the cast and the number applies to the quantity in the cast, very large pots twelve inches across are six to the cast, eleven inches eight to the cast, and so on; small pots two and a half inches across the top are seventy-two to the cast.

Many gardens, especially those near towns, have places which are ugly if left bare, but for various reasons these plots are unsuited for plant-growth, either the soil is too shallow or there are roots of trees or drains in the way; in such spots tubs and large pots filled with good soil look extremely well and are quite easily managed. Where there is room paraffin oil casks cut in half burnt out with shavings and painted green or white make effective receptacles for large plants, butter tubs will answer the same purpose, but they

last so short a time that it is better to get some medium-sized tubs (round or square) made by a local cooper and paint them at home during the bad weather. Holes (there should be several) can be made in the bottom of all tubs with a red-hot poker if you have no drill. Seakale pots turned upside down, with the cover or a large piece of slate to cover the hole put inside, answer very well. If they crack and burst, as they often do, they can be mended with builders' cement and wired round the top ; in this way they last a long time. Mrs. G. F. Watts has a pottery at Compton, near Guildford, where terra-cotta pots and vases of all sizes and artistic shapes are sold ; they are not expensive considering their beauty and so thick that the roots never burst them.

Every garden of a certain size, to be comfortable to work in, must have a tool shed with a broad bench for potting and a few shelves and large nails in the walls for hanging up the tools. If there is no room in the shed the roller can be kept outside under a piece of corrugated iron ; the mowing machine, well greased, will be best under the bench for the winter. If there are woods of larch trees near you a shed built of split poles will be inexpensive and look very nice, but any wood-merchant would supply the ends of planks or the refuse from coffin-making very cheap, they taper a little at the ends, but are laid one over the other and when the whole is tarred or

else painted with jodelite (which has the same quality as tar but is a nice brown colour) the whole looks very well.

February is a good month to propagate Chrysanthemum cuttings. These are taken from the old shoots or plants and put round the edge of pots filled with fine earth and plenty of sand ; the pots are then sunk into the earth of a cool hot-bed, or the pots may be put in a box and placed in a room with a sheet of glass over the top ; they should be kept fairly dry.

Montbretias can be planted this month if not already in the ground ; there are often old clumps already established, and these are best taken up after they have flowered ; the bulbs dried off in October and replanted in February, or new bulbs can be put in now. In the North they will require a sheltered place near a south wall ; in the Southern Counties they will flourish anywhere. Plant the bulbs three inches apart and five or six inches deep. Many people sow their sweet peas in January, but very little time is saved. If they were not sown in September they can be put in now. Make a trench as directed for Eating Peas with six inches of manure at the bottom, leave the top not quite level with the rest of the earth ; sow one seed at a time, six inches between each seed, and put small sticks for them to cling to directly they show above the ground. Soak the seeds in paraffin before sowing and sprinkle red

lead to keep the mice from eating them. It is important to cover the seeds with pea protectors or cotton twined about sticks, as the birds will eat the seeds and also the young plants.

The following is a list of good varieties :—

White.—*Ella Dyke*, *Norah Unwin*. *Pink*.—*Princess Victoria* and *Mrs. Hardcastle Sykes*. *Deep Pink*.—*Countess Spencer* and *Constance Oliver*. *Salmon*.—*Earl Spencer* and *Stirling Stent*. *Mauve*.—*Tennent Spencer* and *Helio-Paradise*. *Blue*.—*Asta Ohn* and *Flora Norton Spencer*. *Scarlet*.—*George Stark* and *Scarlet Monarch*. *Orange*.—*Helen Lewis* and *Edna Unwin*. *Maroon*.—*Maroon Paradise* and *Black Princess*.

Another way to grow Sweet Peas, which is more trouble but ensures finer plants, is to sow the seed in pots at the end of this month, seven seeds in a three inch pot, the seed must be two inches below the surface, water the pots and stand them in a cold frame, keep a mousetrap well baited in the frame. The plants will be ready to plant out in April. In the meantime prepare your ground, let the ground be thoroughly well dug and manure left rough on the surface, at the end of March it can have a dressing of soot and wood ashes, and if the land is stiff, old mortar rubbish and toad sand.

The end of February is the right time for dressing lawns and grass paths, if they are mossy, they are best well raked, if weedy, the weeds

must be removed with a spud or old knife. The following dressing we have found very beneficial on this light soil. With a cart-load of loam and rotted manure in equal parts mix three bushels of soot and three of quicklime, spread this not too thickly over the lawns and paths. The manure entirely disappears in about a month, and anything that has not been absorbed must be raked or brushed off. This quantity would be enough for a full-sized tennis lawn.

During the Spring in damp weather all grass is very much benefited by rolling, except when the ground is very wet; in wet weather, spudding to take out the weeds is most necessary, it can be done the whole year round except in frosty weather. Spudding looks very boring, but when once begun it is quite fascinating, a spudding visitor is a treasure.

Any pruning that has been put off should be done this month : Thorn and privet hedges, strong kinds of Roses, such as the old China or Monthly, can be pruned. Cut out the weak shoots or shorten them. All Roses should be top dressed with long manure (fresh stable manure) laid round their roots, this is often done in the autumn, but is a waste of manure and only answers as a protection to the roots.

VEGETABLE GARDEN.

The hot-bed seedlings will be coming up and must be carefully watched, if they get eaten look at night with a light and try and catch the snails or slugs; if there are wood-lice in the frame (the little grey pests which curl themselves up in a ball when frightened), they can be got rid of by pouring boiling water along the edge of the frame in the middle of the day. If the seedlings come up too quickly in some places, thin out the drill and fill up any spaces where the seeds have failed to grow.

The vegetables in the frame will require little attention except occasional judicious watering. Lettuces will be the first crop that can be eaten ; as soon as they are two inches high they can be cut like Mustard and Cress, and the tiny leaves make a delicious, tender salad. The sowing of Lettuces for salad may be continued all through the cold spring months.

Broad Beans can be sown in the open ground in mild weather in February ; they should be planted in rows two feet apart, and the Bean dropped into a hole made with a thick pointed stick four inches deep and six inches between each hole.

Early in February Shallots may be planted. The bed should be made up in January or better still in December, as fresh manure will make them canker, tread or roll the ground firmly as for Onions, plant six inches apart in lines one foot apart, only just pressing down the bulb into the

soil to keep it in position as the young bulbs grow on the top. They should not be earthed up, but the soil drawn away as they mature, as this facilitates the ripening process.

The Onion bed should be got ready in February, there is no need to have fresh ground for Onions every year, as they do well for a number of years in the same place. The soil must be workable, and if at all sticky burnt rubbish must be dug in. The seed may be sown at the end of the month if the weather is neither frosty nor wet, the bed must be rolled before the seed is sown to make the soil firm in order that the seed may take a grip and so produce a good bulb; four inches apart will be sufficient distance for the drills, sow the seed thinly and an inch deep, as these Onions are to stand all the Summer and they will grow very large if thinned enough. A good keeping sort should be used, such as Ailsa Craig or James's Long Keeping. If you have any pea-protectors to spare, use them, if not, fish netting may be stretched across some branches, about one and a half feet from the ground, as a protection from birds, cats and dogs.

If you wish to increase your rhubarb, some may be taken up and divided and planted again in rich moist soil, every separate piece to have only one good eye, which means a shooting bud. The roots in the permanent bed must be covered with manure. Seakale is such a

useful vegetable that it is well to have a good supply, the crowns can be bought new and if covered with pots at once they will force the same year, if the pots are surrounded with fresh manure or even with wet leaves. In light warm soils, the first Potatoes may be planted at the end of February. Any fairly good soil will produce a crop of Potatoes, but to secure a first class sample of any early sort the ground should be made up with turfy soil and ashes from the bonfire. Line out the ground, which means measure the piece to be used and mark the rows ; this must be in a sheltered part of the garden, near a south wall if possible, the bed to be in neat ridges two feet apart, running north and south. These ridges must be shallow, rising not more than six inches above the general level. On every fourth ridge sow early Dwarf Peas. Plant three rows of Potatoes between every two rows of Peas, rub off all the weak eyes and then cut those on the crown, two or three eyes being quite sufficient. Plant the Potatoes a foot apart with four inches of fine soil over them. If the bed can have some light protection by fir branches or dead bracken all should go well, but even then this early planting is only safe in the south of England, and should be postponed until March or even April further north or on cold soils in a bleak situation. In a small garden Potatoes are the vegetable perhaps least worth growing, as they take up so much room, but the early home

grown Potatoes are very acceptable and much better eating than the foreign grown early ones to be bought in the market. Besides, a keen gardener likes to be able to grow small quantities of all sorts of vegetables, usual and unusual.

The small white turnip called "*Snowball*" may be sown on a light soil and watered in dry, mild weather, sow in drills twelve inches apart very thinly, the seed to be only slightly covered with fine soil, if you have not enough pea protectors to cover the bed, the same netting arrangement may be used as mentioned before, and this holds good whenever seeds are sown throughout the year.

In the kitchen garden the hoe should be used between all the seed drills as the weeds appear, for they grow quicker than the seeds that have been sown.

If there was mealy bug (American blight) showing in the previous summer on your apple trees you can wash now with Bentley's soluble petroleum, doing the work in dry weather. This blight is soon detected by the cotton-wool-like patches on the bark of the tree, with a brown sticky fluid under it. Any trees which need nailing to fences or walls should be done at once. All ties should be loose enough to allow of expansion. Any cross shoots of fruit trees should be cut out if not already done.

What manure to use is a very difficult question

for a beginner. Where it is possible to buy farm-yard manure by the load, this would be the best stuff to dig into the ground for all vegetable crops, provided the ground is prepared some time before the planting or seed sowing is done and that the manure is well rotted. Never accept manure that looks dry and has a great deal of light long straw among it, except for use round shrubs in the autumn, and for mulching strawberries in spring, as it answers the purpose for mulching and can be dug in during the spring, when it will have become sufficiently rotted to be of use underground. To dig in such stuff in the Spring is quite useless, as it remains in the same dry condition all the summer and fails to mix with the soil. The relative values of animal manure stand in order thus : pigeon, poultry, sheep, horse, pig, and lastly cow. On hot, dry soil cow manure is useful as it is the coolest ; the bulbs in Holland are raised in beds consisting principally of cow manure and sand. Straw is of the greatest value, and care must be exercised over the use of any other form of litter, dry leaves are, of course, quite safe, but peat moss disagrees with plants in a hot-bed if they are left to grow in it too long, though if dug into clay soil it will be beneficial. Lime should be used alone on heavy land and soot is good on all land, also for pot plants which depend for their beauty on good foilage.

The following artificial manures are all useful :

Gas Lime for making clay porous, it has a most vile smell, so if you use it let it be applied when you are from home. *Fish Guano* should be dug in one to four oz. to every square yard, or Rape dust four oz. to twelve oz. per square yard. These should be used in the Winter. For plants which like strong soil, such as Roses and Chrysanthemums, *Basic Slag*, one oz. to six oz. per square yard dug in in early winter, to be followed by *Superphosphate of Lime*, one pound to every five square yards, will improve their growth. *Phosphates* are good for ripening wood to bring about a fruitful and short jointed-growth, and *Sulphate of Ammonia*, dug in in early Spring, will stimulate leaf and stem growth, so should only be used for ornamental shrubs and trees—one oz. to every five square yards will be sufficient. *Kainit* should be used on poor land in early Winter. All chemical manures should be spread evenly and then dug or hoed in. Never feed sickly plants with manure, unless you are quite sure they are suffering from poorness of soil. Do not mix your manures or use more than is recommended, double doses are more likely to kill than cure. These artificial manures are expensive and need only be used where the natural manures are not procurable. A cheap liquid manure can be made by getting a small sack of hoof parings from the shoeing forge and put it in a tub of rain-water. If this is done

now, the liquid will be ready to use in the Spring and Summer.

Pigs are paying animals if you have a good kitchen garden and some wash from the house to give them, and their manure is very precious. Straw should be given them for their bed, and this makes a valuable addition to your soil. The usual plan is to buy two young pigs early in the year and sell them in the Autumn. Pigs should never be given any meat scraps, tea leaves, or coffee grounds ; they will eat anything in the way of vegetables.

CHAPTER III

MARCH

“ Spring’s first breath

Blew soft from the moist hills ; the blackthorn boughs
So dark in the bare wood, when glistening
In the sunshine were white with coming buds,
Like the bright side of a sorrow. The banks
Had violets opening from sheep-like eyes.”

—BROWNING.

MARCH is the great seed-sowing month. All hardy annuals can be sown now in any moderate climate, early or late, according to the situation. The ground will have to be watched and a suitable day chosen when it is neither very dry nor wet enough for the soil to stick to your tools. Never sow seeds on a windy day, as the small seeds blow about, in any case they are best mixed with dry sand before sowing. There is no more delightful occupation to the true gardener than sowing seeds on the right sort of day, seeing all the time, through the power of imagination, the show they will make in the Summer. The creative instinct is strong in all of us, and the feeling that without our work the ground would be bare and that it is our privilege to help Nature to complete her work fills one with an overwhelming sense of the wonder of it all. Besides this the day itself, the real

seed-sowing day, which is worth waiting for, is in itself the best day of the year, mild, slightly damp, still and sunny ; the grass has begun to grow, the first shoots of Crown Imperials, Lupins, Campanulas, Paeonies and other early plants are showing ; the rooks, if there are any in the country, will come and caw to you, above all the smell of Spring, which is more than any other the cleanest, most delightful soul-satisfying of scents. It is indeed a day to be looked forward to all the Winter. Get all your seeds ready some days in advance and sorted into two packets—those that grow tall and those that are short—and a supply of zinc or wooden labels painted white and marked with the names, and duplicate some where more than one patch is to be sown. You will need some reels of cheap cotton—(the coloured sorts do very well)—and some sticks about eighteen inches high—the prunings of Apple trees or Michaelmas Daisy stalks will answer the purpose. It is well to draw up a plan of the beds and decide beforehand where the different seeds are to be sown. In this case you can arrange your packets in order, as if you have to search for the one you want among them you will find it very tiresome, the soil dirties one's hands and makes them clumsy and the little packets of seeds are finikin to handle. You will need a barrow-load of fine earth, potting soil or leaf mould, a basket of sand, your kneeler, a rake and a fork. Annuals appreciate a good soil,

so if you have any hot-bed stuff to spare have some dug in where the seeds are to be sown. If not, loosen the ground with the fork and put some fine earth all over the space to be sown. One would think that any intelligent person, seeing the amount of room required by even a small annual, would realise at once that sowing seeds thickly is waste of time, waste of seeds, and waste of plant-strength, as, instead of growing without check, the poor little crowded-up seedling has to fight for its life and grows up choked, mis-shapen, and weak. Thinning out should only be required when the plants are a few weeks old and the more skilfully seeds are sown the less time will have to be given to this tedious occupation. The larger and cheaper the seeds the more room between them will be required, as big seeds mean coarse-growing plants. I have seen a penny packet of seeds which would have been sufficient to sow a bed twelve feet square literally poured into a space one foot square, and the sower was quite surprised that the result was hundreds of little puny growths with flowers which lasted one day, only fit for the garden of a doll's house, and the whole patch of little invalids died of exhaustion. If you have any seeds over they will do for next year, only be sure to keep them dry or give them away. Never sow them where they will not have room to grow to perfection. When the seeds are sown, mark the places with labels and then put in the little sticks

and wind cotton about them to form a cat's cradle. This will keep off the birds and prevent cats from walking on them or lying down to sleep on the freshly turned earth. March is usually a very dry, windy month, so the seeds must be watered with a fine rose until the rain comes.

The beginner must remember that some seeds may not germinate, therefore it is possible to sow the seeds too thinly—they may come up in patches, when they must be thinned out very carefully. Many seedlings will transplant quite well if done with care when very young. Larkspurs and *Antirrhinums* and all the Primrose and Polyanthus tribe can be sown in a patch and thinned out, using those seedlings you take up to plant in some other plot which was not available at the seed-sowing time. Love-in-a-Mist, Poppies, Sweet Sultan will not transplant, and Lupins need very careful handling and must be moved with a large ball of earth. Nothing but experience can teach one where to grow annuals. There are some kinds which look so much better sown in rows that they require a large space. A small hedge of *Lavatera trimestris*, the pink and white Tree Mallow, is very beautiful and the plants support each other and only need a few branches stuck among them as they grow. They are excellent for cutting and if the flowers are not allowed to go to seed will last till October. The pink annual Larkspurs, also look best in lines.

Lupins are best in groups of three or five. Nasturtiums are lovely everywhere against walls or banks, sown on new beds where there is not much else and allowed to cover the bare soil, climbing up creepers which have flowered in early Spring and are over by the time the Nasturtiums are at their best. The dwarf kinds can be sown towards the front of the beds in groups of nine or twelve, six inches apart, and only one kind in a group. The ordinary Nasturtiums look well in front of yellow, brown, or red flowers, but one called "The Pearl," a pale one, looks best in front of blue or mauve. Virginian Stock and *Nemophila* and *Limnanthes* are all sown in long patches quite in front of the bed. *Gypsophila elegans* and *Nigella* (Love-in-a-Mist or Devil-in-a-Bush), sown together broadcast, as they support each other, are only good in large patches. The Opium Poppy looks well in single specimens, so it is a good plan to throw a little seed about the herbaceous beds and thin out all but a plant here and there. A big bed of Shirley Poppies is very lovely, the seed must be mixed with sand and thrown very carefully and the seedlings must be hoed out to quite two feet apart each way.

There are several ways of treating half-hardy annuals. The usual plan is to sow them in boxes in a greenhouse heated to seventy degrees or on a hot-bed made up the first week in March according to the directions given in January. They can be

sown in a cold frame, if it is protected with mats at night, at the end of March, otherwise the sowing should be put off till April. All the Autumn-flowering plants, Zinnias, China Asters, and Marigolds, are best left until then, as otherwise they flower before they are wanted. All that has already been said about hardy seed-sowing applies equally to half-hardy annuals, and when sown in boxes the drainage must be very good. Use boxes quite five inches deep with holes or cracks at the bottom, and put first a layer of broken pots or cinders, fill up with fine sifted earth, sprinkle the top with sand and press all down quite level, and water the soil before sowing. When sown cover the seeds very lightly. Musk must not be covered at all; this plant is really hardy, but I put it in the list of half-hardy plants as it is best sown in a frame or box and planted out. It makes, as we all know, a charming pot plant. When the boxes are sown, some damp moss laid on the top (or a piece of broken glass) will keep them moist, as dryness is fatal and it is most difficult to water seeds without disturbing them. A watering pot with a very fine rose is absolutely necessary. Put the boxes in the warmest place in the greenhouse or in a frame or even in a warm window, when they will do well if they have a piece of glass resting on the sides of the box, covered with paper for the first few days, till the seeds are quite up. Most of the flower seeds sown in the January

hot-bed cannot yet be planted out, but should have plenty of room. They could be transplanted into another cold frame, and kept well covered at night. If this is not possible they must take their chance until May, but if they are crowded it is best to sacrifice some for the good of the rest, as if drawn up and weak they will do badly. The only seedlings ready to plant out, will be *Antirrhinums* (Snapdragons), which should by this time be large enough to put in any empty space in the garden. They grow very tall, if you have ordered the right kind of seed, and will grow in very poor soil in any position, on walls, banks, and even in a gravel path. This last is a splendid place, as, if there is no room under a wall for a bed, the gravel can be scraped away for six inches all along the wall at intervals and Snapdragons planted. The hardy everlasting pea called *Lathyrus grandiflorus* is a useful plant for rough places, to climb up dead trees, or over banks, and is much more graceful and satisfactory than *L. latifolius*, though *latifolius albus* is a beautiful thing and well worth growing. They should both be planted in the Spring; as soon as the shoots begin to show above the ground they can be taken up and transplanted, so that is the time to buy them.

No flowers seem to be more beautiful or desirable than *Hepatica angulosa*. I have never succeeded in getting them to grow on my Surrey sandy soil,

but where they have the soil they like they are as easy as possible. Some say they should have peat, but I do not think they are ever so fine as in strong loam well-drained and manured, where they do well. They flower for nearly three months, commencing in February. They never look better than in fine clumps, though when they are to be propagated the roots should be divided before the new leaves are produced, which is before the flowers are quite over. A deeply dug and well-manured plot should be prepared for them, and their long roots should not be doubled up in the least ; they both need and deserve great care. The varieties of *H. trifolia* differ only in the colour and form of their flowers, these being blue, purple, white, and pink. Of the first and last named there are double varieties as well. One of the best and most instructive of books for the growing and cultivating of small plants is one called "*Hardy Perennials and Old-Fashioned Garden Flowers*," by John Wood, of Woodville, Kirkstall, Yorkshire.

The Lent Roses, as the Levant *Hellebori orientales* are called, are very desirable plants ; grown in good soils they increase rapidly, and if pieces are dug up in January or in February and potted, they make a beautiful showy plant in a cool greenhouse or room, and this without any injury to the plant if put out of doors again directly the flower is over ; there are several shades

of pinkish-purple and white and greenish-white varieties. In mild districts they will flower nearly all the winter, on light soils they are easier to grow than Christmas Roses and floated in a glass bowl full of water look just as beautiful. The Crocuses when in perfection are very often spoilt by birds pecking at them, this is remedied by stretching black cotton from short sticks just over the flowers. Crown Imperials will be coming into bud at the end of the month and must have some strong sticks put among them, as they are very apt to be blown about and get broken.

Now is the time to plant the little pieces of root shoots of *Tropaeolum speciosum* (see October), but be sure they are fresh, those bought from a bulb merchant are usually dry and quite useless. They should have a good bed prepared for them of leaf mould if there is no peat available; if you have friends in Scotland or the Lake District, ask them to send you some roots by post. The Pyrethrums, also mentioned in October, can be planted now in bold groups, the single crimson, white, and pale pink are the prettiest, a magenta shade is to be avoided.

The Chrysanthemum cuttings struck last month should be examined and any dead ones thrown away and fresh cuttings inserted to take their places. A little more water can be given if they seem flourishing, but if the leaves turn yellow this is a sign they are too damp. The bulbs planted

in beds should be coming on now and will soon be showing their flower buds, Winter *Aconites* will be dying down.

Dahlias, *Salvia patens* and *Lobelia cardinalis* roots which were taken up and stored in ashes in October, can now be planted in a cold frame or in pots in a greenhouse. When they begin to grow a few pieces taken off and potted up will produce nice little plants which will flower in the Autumn.

There are several bulbs which can be ordered now. *Gladiolus*, *Hyacinthus candidans*, and Lilies of sorts, including *Lilium auratum*, grow best in peat, and when the stem roots appear they should be fed round the crown with cow manure and peat or leaf mould, and as they come through the ground a drain pipe put over them and left open at the top saves them from being injured by late frosts. *L. Martagon* is easily grown and very beautiful, purple with black spots, and flowers in July, there is also a white variety and *L. speciosum* is one of the best, *album* is all white and *roseum* spotted with deep pink, and *L. tigrinum*, the old Tiger Lily, is one of the easiest of all lilies to grow and has the added merit of flowering in August, which is not a full month in the flower borders. There is no difficulty in growing Begonias if you have any heat, and the cheapest way to buy them is when they are in a dormant condition, when they can be got for about fourpence a dozen. They must be potted at once and put in a greenhouse, a warm

frame, or in a sunny window. In Winter they can be put away in a box of dry earth or sand and stored in a frost-proof shed or cellar. *Cannas* should now be potted and brought to the light;¹ they are best divided every second year. If you have no Delphiniums in the garden and cannot wait to grow them from seed, a slow process, March is the time to buy the plants ; three of the best are King of Delphiniums, Bella Donna, and Persimmon.

After the middle of the month grass seed can be sown if you want to make a lawn or new grass paths or to patch bare places in an old lawn. In the case of making a new lawn the ground must be well drained and be absolutely level. Manure should be added at the rate of fifteen cartloads of well-rotted farmyard manure to half an acre of land, superphosphate of lime or Peruvian guano may be used instead. The surface of the ground must be very fine and rolled quite firm, the seed must be sown very thickly—first the best lawn seed mixture and then a little fine clover ; cover all with a quarter of an inch of fine soil and roll again. Two bushels of seed will be needed for half an acre. The surface must be raked lightly before the last rolling.

Three plants that are of endless use in filling up spaces quickly, giving a good effect with very little trouble and having the further merit of lasting well in water, are *Sedum spectabile*, *Nepeta*

¹ See October.

Mussini (Cat Mint) and *Saxifraga umbrosa*, the old London Pride of cottage gardens. The *Sedum* can be either planted to flower and grow perennially rather at the front of the flower-bed in any rather poor place or at the back of the Rock-Garden, or can be kept from October to July in a bed in the reserve garden and moved in July to flower in the place of some dead annual. Cat Mint is a low-growing, grey-leaved plant with grey-blue flowers that remain in bloom for many weeks ; if it is planted in different aspects one can have a long succession, and a bunch of it picked for the house is always welcome. The plant can be divided every Autumn or Spring. London Pride may be planted wherever there is a bare place and some should be put in a good position to give large flower stems for cutting, as, though it will grow anywhere and flourish with the most minute amount of soil, the flowers are only bright and the stalks long in a fairly moist place with a good root run ; it can be moved or divided now, but is best done in the Autumn.

The family of *Helleborus* already mentioned is very interesting : there is a native English kind sometimes found in woods, *H. foetidus*. The tall cultivated kinds are in growth most like the wild ones and are called "Lent Hellebores." *H. colchicus* is a lovely purple, *H. guttatus* is a lighter shade, *H. olympicus* is white. The beauty of the well known Christmas Rose, *H. niger*, depends

entirely on treatment, soil, and situation ; neglected on a light soil it has few leaves, short stalks, and deformed flowers ; but on strong or well-fed soil, watered with liquid manure after flowering when the leaves are growing, protected by tall trees or covered with a bell glass when in flower, it is one of the most precious treasures of the whole year. This January we saw it at Kew grown between hardy ferns on a slope facing north under Elm trees ; and the large clumps were a mass of handsome long-stalked flowers. They should be planted in March and left undisturbed for years ; large clumps can then be divided.

The Rock Garden will require a great deal of attention this month if you wish to grow any of the better kinds of rock plants. The following can be grown from seed (which if not already ordered had better be got now) ; they should have been sown in the previous June and July in shallow pans or boxes and kept quite moist, but small plants of them are quite cheap and two years will be saved by buying and planting them now : *Arenaria montana*, *Aster alpinus*, *Dianthus alpinus*, *D. cæsius*, *D. cinnamoneus*, *Draba aizoides*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Heuchera sanguinea*, *Linaria alpina*, *Papaver alpinum*, *Primula cashmiriana*, *P. cortusoides*, *P. rosea*, and *Ramondia pyrenaica*. All rock plants already established must be looked at and carefully weeded. Any which are too large can be divided now except Aubrietias which are very impatient of

division and are best grown from seed and the young plants put in place in September. Late Summer and early Autumn are the dullest months in a rock garden, so in planting this must be borne in mind. *Heuchera Richardsoni*, *H. sanguinea* and *H. americana* have beautiful leaves which turn bright red in November; *Silene Schafii* flowers in August and September; *Polygonum vaccinifolium* flowers late and is an attractive little plant with a creeping habit; *Zauschneria californica* flowers in Autumn with brilliant scarlet blossoms; it likes a hot dry place. *Androsace lanuginosa* flowers in August but continues until frost; it likes a deep soil. *Plumbago Larpentæ* has fine cobalt-blue blossoms in early Autumn and *Aplopappus Brandegei* is a little known plant from America; it likes a sunny dry place. *Geranium subcaulescens* flowers late and remains long in bloom.

On the north-west side of the rock garden there are sheltered places which must be filled by precious things which do not like a full sun and enjoy the protection from an easterly wind. *Lithospermum prostratum* does best in a sheltered place and the soil free from lime, and should be planted so that its roots can run under a big stone. *Arenaria montana* likes the same sort of position. *Campanula pulla* thrives best if split up and replanted in fresh soil every year in the Spring. *C. gorganica*, *C. pumila*, *C. Tommasiniana*, and *C. turbinata* do well in such a position. *Draba*

Aisoon and *D. bruniaefolia*, also *Morisia hypogaea* and many of the primulas such as *P. pubescens alba*, *P. viscosa*, *P. auricula*, *Atragene alpina*, the Alpine Clematis, must be given plenty of room. On the south or south-east side may be planted the creeping or Alpine Phloxes, *P. subulata*, *P. setacea violacea*, and *P. reptans*. *Phlox divaricata* or Canadian Phlox flowers later and is not a creeper, it is a beautiful blue colour ; slugs are its greatest enemy. The *Sempervivum*, or House Leek, can be wedged in between stones in any corner ; *S. tectorum* is the most common. *S. arenarium*, *S. fimbriatum*, and *S. globiferum* should all be planted together with *Thymus Serpyllum*, *Codonopsis ovata*, *Erinus alpinus*, *Gypsophila repens*, and *Iberis sempervivum*. The last grows into quite a little shrub and is evergreen. *Saxifraga pyramidalis* is well worth special culture. The little rosettes which grow round the parent plant should be pulled off and planted separately ; any that may grow again in the course of the Summer should be pulled off and planted apart. When the plant is, say, three inches across it can be potted up for flowering under glass or put into a special bed in the rock garden, where it will flower the following Spring, requiring nothing but a little stake to support its handsome head of bloom. The old plant dies, so young ones must always be kept growing on.

' All hybrid perpetual roses should be pruned at

the end of March. Tea Roses are best left till next month. You will soon see which are the weak growths, and these can be cut away at once ; if there are many shoots on the strong stems, cut away all that grow towards the centre, as the idea is to let the air and sun into the middle of the bush. If your soil suits roses and you want fine blooms prune almost to the ground, but on light soils, or if many flowers are wanted, do not cut back so hard ; but never leave a tangle of weak growth or any old dead wood. Standard roses may be cut back almost to the main stem. Dean Hole describes a neglected standard rose tree as "a long stick with a poor invalid upstairs," the usual reason for this is that they are not securely staked and blow about in the wind ; this is especially the case in light soils. When pruning Roses remember that the shoots you cut off, if fairly strong, will make very good cuttings. If you have no special place for striking them, make a small hole for each one round the rose bush, pour in a little coarse sand, and after firmly planting your cutting, cover it with a glass jam jar and leave it for five or six weeks, occasionally taking off the glass for a few hours, after the first fortnight, the cutting must not be lifted until September.

The Carnations layered last July and not planted out in October or any cuttings you have in pots may now be planted in their permanent quarters out of doors. The Carnation bed must be well

drained and fully open to the sun. Plant the layers or cuttings in fresh soil, loam mixed with leaf mould and sand or road grit, and plant firmly as far as the lower leaves.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Another sowing of Peas may be made, still using the earliest sorts. Leeks should be sown in drills nine inches apart, they can be sown fairly thickly. You may try some Celery seed in a small well-manured trench with a piece of glass over it, and a sack thrown over if there is frost and you have no frame. The earliest sorts of Cabbage may be sown in a frame, also Cauliflower and Savoys. Some of the early Onions ought to be ready to eat and if you sowed any Turnips in a frame in January, a few may be planted out in the open ground. We have never seen this recommended in gardening books, but I tried it most successfully this year in Hampshire. Shake your nut trees to let the pollen from the catkins fertilise the red flowers which will be out this month.

March is a very busy time in the Kitchen Garden. Sow more Broad Beans, and the principal sowing of many vegetables may also be made if the weather is fairly mild and showery and the ground moist without being too wet. On

heavy land one should never try to do anything to soil which is wet and sticky, this often causes the crops to be much later. Also on heavy soils a good dressing of sand or road scrapings mixed with the top soil will make the seed bed more suitable. Parsley should be sown in drills one foot apart, one inch deep, and very thinly as each plant will cover quite eight inches of soil when fully grown.

Beetroot is usually sown on a bed which has been well manured for some heavy crop the previous year, or if you have any soil from an old hot-bed this can be forked in. The first sowing had better be of Egyptian turnip-rooted Beet. Sow in drills one and a half or two inches deep and thin out later on when the plants are three inches high to nine inches apart; sow very thinly. Leeks and Lettuce should be sown, and the Mint bed dug up and replanted; pull up some of the shoots with a root attached and plant them in rows six inches apart and four inches between each plant. If you have a greenhouse, fresh Mint can be grown in pots and boxes all through the Winter and Spring. The Globe Artichoke can be increased in March. Prepare the soil by deep digging and liberal manuring and beg or buy some little shoots which are dragged from the sides of the old plants; these should be planted in groups of three one foot apart, the groups to be two feet apart. Plant them very firmly and rather deep

and have quite an inch of sand on the top of the bed. If your soil is heavy some of this will fall into each hole as you plant the cuttings. If the weather is cold and wintry put this off till April.

The first sowing of Cabbage may be made in a sheltered border. Enfield Market is a good variety, all the Cabbage and Kale tribe must be sown in small drills and quite thinly cover the soil with an inch of earth and protect from birds. The plants will have to be thinned out and finally planted in their permanent place later on.

Carrots like a sandy soil and an open position. Carrot seed must be selected to suit the soil. Early Nantes or Early Horn we have found good kinds to sow early (these must be chosen from catalogues of reliable seedsmen). The ground must not be freshly manured, it should have been prepared in the Autumn. Carrots should be sown in lines one foot apart and quite thinly. Spinach may be sown wherever there is room. The first sowing of Cauliflower can be made at the end of the month.

The old plants of Seakale taken up in November must now be cut up into pieces about four inches long and planted where the crop is to stand in good well manured soil one foot apart in every direction.

CHAPTER IV

APRIL

“ I left behind the ways of care,
The crowded, hurrying hours,
I breathed again the woodland air,
I plucked the woodland flowers.

“ Bluebells as yet but half awake,
Primroses pale and cool,
Anemones like stars that shake
In a green, twilight pool.

“ On these still lay an enchanted shade
The magic April sun :
With my own child a child I strayed,
And thought the years were one.”

—HENRY NEWBOLT.

THIS month the garden should be full of Daffodils ; remember when picking them that the sap of the leaves of all bulbs goes back into the bulbs, so you should never cut many leaves of one plant and they should be left to die down naturally, not tidied away too quickly.

Any bulbs that have flowered in bowls in the house can now be planted outdoors in some out-of-the-way place, as they are not likely to

flower well next year ; but if the soil suits them they will do well after the first season.

Notice how your garden compares with other people's gardens, mark in a book what is missing, so as to plant next Autumn or sow in May. Wallflowers, Forget-me-not, Polyanthus, coloured Primroses, Grape Hyacinths, *Pulmonaria*, Fritillaries, Pæonies, the Spring-flowering *Magnolia stellata* and *M. obovata*, *Pyrus floribunda*, some of the Genistas, the early Tulips, and Honesty, should all be in flower now, making the garden gay and sweet.

For small gardens or houses with walls or terraces in front, pot cultivation is very decorative and useful, and not difficult to manage ; but it is better to have plants that are just a little tender, and can be protected in their pots during the Winter, and then in the Summer they will not be exactly the same plants as those growing around in the open ground. One of the exceptions to this is the *Azalea pontica*, which is an excellent pot plant ; it will do out of doors entirely all the year round and may stand east or west as well as south, it requires no attention beyond watering all the year round, even in Winter in mild showery weather, and feeding on the top in February with a little peat and cow manure.

Azalea pontica can be put into big pots at any time of the year, though the end of the Summer is the best time. They have two seasons of great

beauty, one when the sweet clear yellow flowers are out, and again when the leaves turn in October, some foliage goes yellow and some bright red, but the flower is exactly the same. All the Winter through the fat buds have a promise of Spring and if the pots or vases are large and open enough at the top some few large single snowdrops may be planted at the edge of the pot. Another pretty pot plant in districts where it is not quite hardy in the ground is the large leafed Myrtle. A very little protection keeps it through the Winter. The blue *Agapanthus* flowers best if very pot-bound, which means the pot being tightly filled with root ; it looks handsome in an oil-barrel cut in half, with, of course, holes burnt at the bottom, as stated before, and the tub when brought out in May should stand on four bricks to have perfect draining, and to prevent worms from entering it.

For half-hardy Pelargoniums, sweet-smelling and South African, see an article upon them by Miss White of Alexandra College, Dublin, in the "Flora and Sylva," by W. Robinson, Vol. III, page 136. This is a beautiful book which is not as well known as it should be. *Calceolaria amplexicaulis* is a plant which does not flourish bedded out in gardens with a light soil, but it makes a handsome plant in a pot grown from cuttings made the previous Autumn.

Half-hardy Fuchsias may be grown on a stem about a foot high, which is done by taking off

the lower branches in early Spring. Oleanders flower better from being kept dry in Winter and in a cold shed just short of real frost.

Hydrangeas, fancy Pelargoniums (Geraniums) P. Enid, P. William Gladstone, P. Jacobi are all good for pot cultivation, and with protection in a frost-proof out-house or stable they can be left in their pots from year to year and become really handsome plants ; a little doing up at the top in the Spring and a little Clay's fertiliser sprinkled on the top when they are growing in June will help them. All Pelargoniums do best in full sun. For the sake of variety creepers may be grown in big pots up sticks. *Solanum jasminoides*, *Eccremocarpus scaber* and *Cobaea scandens* do well in a large pot, grown from seed in a hot-bed early in April. They flower all through the Summer and Autumn.

The large Seakale pots, which can be got anywhere, are cheaper than any other pots of the same size ; what are called Rhubarb pots are larger still.

At the end of April the half-hardy annuals can be sown out of doors either in place or in a reserve garden in drills. The half-hardy annual sown in peat in March must be planted out at the end of April either in another frame with the lights left off in the day-time or out of doors in a place which can be covered up at night. It is a good plan if you are short of room to plant them in

boxes three inches apart the first week of the month, and keep these in the frame or greenhouse until the last week, when they can be put in rows down a path or in the corner of a yard and at night a light piece of matting such as is used by furniture removers thrown over the boxes until all fear of frost is over. Stocks will grow very fast and if kept warm will show buds before they are out of their boxes, so try and keep them strong and bushy by giving them plenty of room and air.

Tall plants like Sunflowers must be sown singly where they are to bloom, in very good soil. Violas and Pansies are best sown in pans or boxes like the half-hardy seeds in March, they will be large enough to handle by the end of the month if the box is put in a hot-bed, and can be planted outdoors in a cool safe place, but if the box has to stand out of doors it must have a piece of glass over it and be kept watered and the plants will not be ready to plant out until May.

Polyanthus and coloured Primroses may be sown now in a sheltered place in drills, or if this is not possible in boxes like the Pansies.

Salpiglossis, Petunias, *Phlox Drummondii*, Nemesia, Indian Pinks, Tobacco Plant, and Musk should be sown at once if they were not put in boxes or hot-bed in March.

Now is the time to divide and replant *Schizostylis coccinea* (mentioned and described in October) or

to get new plants if you have none, Mr. H. B. Pollard, Green Hill, Evesham, has this and many other plants not well known ; his catalogue is most instructive, as it is so well illustrated.

Dahlias will now have begun to shoot and should be planted out in the borders ; have all but one strong shoot taken off and put a small stick for support.

In April all Violets must be taken up and pulled to pieces and the runners and small pieces replanted. The old English garden Violet, *Viola odorata*, and the white variety should be dug up, pulled to pieces, and the smaller runners put about everywhere, under bushes, under fruit trees, along espaliers, and between asparagus beds. If this is done in March and April the garden is full of sweet Violets the following year, everybody except old women love picking them ; if they do not get this replanting once a year, they go to leaf in good soil and hardly flower at all. Of the better sorts, or double Violets, Marie Louise is the strongest grower, it used to be called Parma ; the Neapolitan is paler and rather tenderer. They must be grown for winter flowering in a cold frame which means a hot-bed which has ceased to be hot. They will flower out of doors in April if small pieces are planted under fruit trees, even in Italy they do best under the Orange trees. If they are being prepared for a frame they are divided and small young runners

planted in a bed made with leaf mould and very well rotted manure ; under a north wall is best or in a shady place, but they must be watered in dry weather or always if they show any tendency to red spider, which will show itself by turning the leaves a yellowish-green and showing small spots at the back ; the runners should also be removed. In September these plants are lifted and put into a frame (see September). The Princess of Wales, large-flowered, long-stalked, single Violets, are treated in the same way and do well out of doors but are best in a frame.

Grass, whether a lawn or path, may be mown about once a fortnight during April ; roll it whenever there has been enough rain to soften the ground, but never roll when the ground is really wet. If you dressed the lawn in February it must be well swept before using the mowing machine, as any small stones might injure the cutters. If there are any bare patches some good grass seed may be scattered on them rather thickly, well-rolled, covered with fine soil and sand and rolled again, cover with netting or with cotton stretched across from small sticks ; bushy pea-sticks laid on their sides answer very well and keep birds and beasts away, and also human beings from walking on the place. When the grass begins to grow sprinkle a little fertiliser, Clay's or any other of the same sort, over the patches when moist from rain. Use a spud to take up daisy and plantain

roots, the grass will soon spread over the bare places. As soon as the Delphinium plants are five or six inches high some of the shoots may be taken off and planted round the edge of a pot and kept watered in a frame or sheltered spot ; these if cared for and planted out in June will flower in August and September—the same thing applies to Phloxes ; *Bellis perennis*, double Daisies, that have flowered should be pulled to pieces and planted in single pieces in the reserve garden.

Pruning Roses is a subject that is always mentioned with bated breath by beginners, as if it were a fearfully difficult art, only to be undertaken by an expert. Common sense and a watchful eye are all that are needed ; the instructions given for pruning hybrid perpetual Roses in March holds good for the very tender kinds, except that they make so much less growth that the pruning must be modified. Never let a bush carry more shoots and buds than you think will come to maturity, as it wastes the plant's strength, all healthy growth should only be shortened to a break or bud.

The rose bushes should be watched, as the little grub which infests the young growth can now be detected by the curling leaves, and must be destroyed. If the hybrid perpetuums were not pruned in March there is yet time to do this, or some shoots may have grown more than you expected, so it is well to examine the bushes now and thin out any that are too crowded ; always encourage the

bush to throw shoots outwards, not towards the centre of the bush.

The young Sweet Pea seedlings will be ready to plant out if they were sown in pots in February or early in March. Fork over the ground already prepared for them during the first week in April to the depth of nine inches. On about the 18th of the month, when the plants have stood out of doors for some time in their pots, plant them out in clumps at the distance of four feet apart or grow them in lines, a little finely-sifted cinder ash should be placed about the plants—this will prevent them being damaged by slugs. Never let the plants be dry at the root in planting, let the ground immediately round the plants be a little lower than the usual surface to ensure the water or liquid manure getting at the roots. Watch the young plants especially after heavy rain, and never let them lie on the ground, they will need guiding up the sticks.

Chrysanthemums which have rooted must now be potted into small clean pots. Get ready a mixture of loam, leaf-mould, and sand, or road grit with a little Clay's fertiliser mixed with it. Put some pieces of broken pots (crocks) at the bottom of each pot, then some fibre of the loam and fill with the mixed soil. Make a hole and put the little cutting with as much earth on its roots as possible into the hole and press the soil firmly all round, do not water till the next day but damp

the leaves with a syringe or fine rose on a watering-pot. Always label Chrysanthemum cuttings carefully, as when the time comes to disbud you will need to know how many buds to leave. Some people think that by disbudding one means taking off all the flowers but two or three ugly overgrown giants, and few people except gardeners admire those in these days : but this impression is wrong. Most plants make so many more buds than they can expand that, were all left on the plant you would get a lot of crowded-up flowers so tightly packed that there would be no beauty in them. Each flower should have a few inches of stalk to itself to allow of it showing to perfection. If the fancy names do not help you mark the labels with a description whether large or small, single or double, and this will help you in August. Stand the pots in a row on coal ashes or a board (to keep worms from entering the pots) down the side of a gravel path or in a yard and water whenever they are the least dry, twice a day if necessary. Put short sticks in the pots and tie each plant loosely with a firm knot and keep the pots free of weeds or moss. Take out the top shoot of any that are inclined to grow thin and lanky.

If you have not a stock of good garden or early Chrysanthemums this is a very good time to start them. Beg or buy some old plants and divide them by pulling them to pieces and putting small shoots into pots. If you have a frame put them in

it and keep them close for a few days ; if not a few bell-glasses will serve the purpose or the shelters made of matchwood and talc that are sold at Whiteley's, called Maple's patent Cloches, and cost 9d. each, put over the pot, till the cuttings have taken root, then put them in a sheltered position. They will be ready to plant out in May. The ground where they are to be planted should be prepared as they like rich soil. Dig it deeply and dress with manure. The other plan is to plant them in the reserve garden in half shade and move them into the beds in July to flower in August and September.

Laurustinus, *Forsythia*, and *Chimonanthus fragrans* should all be cut back now, the branches that have flowered shortened, and all the dead flowers cut away from the *Laurustinus*. Almond trees, if growing very strong, should be thinned a very little and cut back, but not if you cut them much when in flower.

Cold winds will now be playing havoc with young and tender growth ; such plants as *Pæonies* and *Dielytra spectabilis* are encouraged to grow by the warm sun we often get in March and the foliage is quickly spoilt when the wind catches it ; a few sticks thrust into the ground to form a circle and filled in with dried leaves or some bracken will prove sufficient shelter, or a few fir branches if you have them. Wooden frames like clothes horses or an iron hurdle, with coarse canvas stretched over

them make good temporary screens during this trying period, these can be used also in May to protect pot plants which are turned out of doors to harden.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Continue to sow Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli and Savoy out of doors in drills, Celery under a piece of glass in a box, Herbs which are annuals, Basil, Summer Savory and Purslane.

Chervil can be sown in the herb bed and the perennial herbs sown in drills to transplant later. Sage, Thyme, Tarragon and Marjoram should now be replanted. If you have no Horseradish it can be sown now; continue to sow Spinach and Broad Beans, Kidney Beans of all sorts should be sown in heat or in a frame protected from frost. The dwarf French Bean which needs no sticks to support it likes a good but light soil, so in preparation for planting them out dig the ground and dress with as much manure as you can spare. At the end of the month the seeds can be sown in the open in the same sort of drills as those prepared for planting out the forced beans. Let the rows be one and a-half feet apart and the seeds must be sown singly three inches apart, and as soon as the second leaves appear these must be thinned out to twice the distance. Strawberries should have

fresh manure from the stable put on the bed and by June it will have become clean and the fruit will be on it protected from the soil.

Salsify is such a very useful vegetable that care should be taken to have it good. Dig a trench two feet deep and put six inches of manure at the bottom and fill in with good sandy soil. Let the seeds be sown in drills fifteen inches apart and one inch deep, thin them out when they are up until the plants are nine inches apart. Get the ground ready and the trenches dug for Celery to be planted out later on.

Carrots, if not already in, must be sown now and need a very sandy soil, so if your ground is heavy dig in plenty of road grit ; this can be collected in country places from the sides of the road ; and in towns where the roads are not tarred, the contractor who takes care of the roads will supply it, but it is getting scarce now so many roads are tarred. The bed should not have been recently manured. Prepare by digging it the depth of one spade, this is called one spit, just turning over the earth, and sow the carrot seed in drills eight inches apart ; mix the dry seed with sand to ensure thin sowing.

Rampion *Campanula Rapunculus* is a vegetable little grown in England, which I think is a mistake. Sutton catalogues the seed. Sow it in drills in the open ground, at the end of April or early in May : the seed is so exceedingly small it is quite

necessary to mix a little sand with it to avoid sowing too thickly ; if the seedlings come up too near together they should be thinned early and clear places filled up. The leaves make an excellent spinach. If well watered the roots can be taken up and stored in October for use in the Winter, and can be served with a white, creamy sauce. The roots that are left through the Winter in the ground will generally produce a fresh growth of leaves, but if these get tough the plants can be left, as they flower in a charming way and a large bunch look very well in water. The flower is a pretty pale blue, bell-shaped flower, which travellers in Switzerland will remember as growing by the sides of the roads. The leaves should be boiled like spinach, drained and put through a sieve ; take a piece of fresh butter the size of an egg, a little flour, mix and cook in a china saucepan, but do not let it brown ; put in the vegetable, add a little cream and stir well. Then put a little more cream on the top and let it all cook slowly by the fire ; stir in the cream before serving and make all very hot. The dish can be served with the root in the centre with a white sauce over it and the green *purée* put round.

Globe Artichokes are a delicious vegetable and ought to be ready to eat in June. The first essential is to get the right kind, which is small and low-growing. I grew mine from seeds brought from Vilmorin, the well-known horti-

culturist in Paris. Once you have the plants the cultivation is easy enough ; they want good soil and a little protection with straw or bracken in the Winter. In April you cut or rather you dig off all the growths except three or four. These pieces pulled off are planted three together in a clump, each clump about two feet apart. Each Spring two fresh rows are made, and the two old ones are taken up ; in this way you get a succession. The old plants flower in June and July, the new cuttings later. Some liquid manure in the Summer-time does them good, the lower leaves should be cut off and given to cattle or pigs. The Artichoke should be eaten much younger than English gardeners ever pick them and are good hot or cold. The old prickly kind are not good to eat ; if left alone and allowed really to flower, they make very handsome plants in an odd corner.

A Watercress bed can be started now by preparing a place which is near a water tap, make the bed (which must have a clay bottom) a few inches below the surface of the ground and after digging it mix some coarse sand and fine leaf mould. Either sow this with watercress seed or plant the small pieces one buys in a bunch, many of which have a few roots attached. The cuttings must be shaded by paper if the sun is hot. Keep the bed damp but do not flood it until the plants are well established.

Stachys tuberifera, or Chinese Artichokes, are planted in April and treated like Jerusalem Artichokes, only planted thicker as they are so small. Sutton sells the little tubers, or they can be bought of any good greengrocer.

The family of Kale or Borecole is very confusing as there are so many kinds which come into use in succession. Sutton's Hardy Sprouting, extra curled Scotch Cottager's branching, and Thousand-headed are the best, but never forget to sow the Variegated Kale which looks so beautiful in the Winter, they should all be sown in lines quite thinly, each line four to six feet long and two feet apart and marked with labels which will not get rubbed out.

Maize or sugar corn is sown this month in a frame and kept well watered ; it is a delicious vegetable if well grown but will not do well in cold climates. The early dwarf is the best one to grow.

CHAPTER V

MAY

"For lo, the Winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth ; the time of the singing of
birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our
land. The fig-tree putteth forth her green figs and the vines
with the tender grape give a good smell."

—SONG OF SOLOMON.

THE Lilac will be in flower this month ; it is always a good plan to order at once what is necessary in your garden and the nurseryman will keep a note and send the plant when it is time to put it in. Azaleas, *Kalmias*, and yellow and white Broom are now blooming, Iris, Spring Snow-Flakes, Columbines, *Nemophila*, *Limnanthes*, and Virginian Stocks, if sown in September, should all be in beauty at the end of the month. Put down in your note-book the names of the cottage Tulips which do best with you and which you admire most, as a guide in ordering next year. Take off the dead flowers from all bulbs, and if you find you have planted any bulbs in the wrong place they can be transplanted directly the flowers are dead ; this is

better than leaving them till the Autumn as by that time you will have forgotten where they are, and they make roots very early.

There are several kinds of seeds which do well sown in May. Wallflowers should have an open place allotted to them and be sown in drills nine inches apart and very thinly on poor ground. *Cheiranthus Allionii* is worth growing as well; all Wallflowers are *Cheiranthi*, but this one is uncommon and has a refined growth and lasts in flower much longer. East Lothian Stocks must also be sown now, both the red and the white. They are biennials, so need sowing every year, and they flower in the following May. What are called Ten Week Stocks are annuals and if sown in March flower in July.

If you have not already sown all the half-hardy annuals do so at once; Asters, Zinnias, Marigolds are best left until this month and sown very thinly in rows to be planted out in July and August—they must be watered in dry weather. The advantage of growing seeds in the reserve garden in rows is that one can see at once if the seed is coming up and also keep the ground between the rows free from weeds by hoeing; this can be done by anyone who is inexperienced, but where seeds are scattered broadcast weeds and seeds come up together and cannot be distinguished except by a practised eye.

May is a very good time to start a hardy Fernery;

it is curious how few people grow Ferns really well, though such lovely things as the Lady Fern (*Asplenium Filix-fæmina*), the Male Fern (*Nephrodium Filix-mas*), the broad buckler Fern (*Lastrea dilatata*) the Shield Fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*) and *P. angulare*, and the Hart's Tongue (*Scolopendrium vulgare*) are all quite easy to grow. The places where they will grow best are those where little else will thrive, under a north wall or beneath the shade of spreading trees, on the shady bank of a stream or pond. The ground should be roughly left in hillocks and banks of soil, a few large moss-covered stones will afford shelter for any of the more tender kinds such as the wild Oak and Beech Ferns, *Polypodium Dryopteris* and *P. Phegopteris* from Cumberland, *Osmunda regalis*, *Adiantum* and Maidenhair.

Of course it is not necessary to put the ferns in some dark out of the way corner if you can spare a better place, half shade or an eastern position in full morning sun. The soil added should be light, and porous leaf mould or peat on a foundation of clay is what the ferns like best.

The common *Polypody* and the Welsh and Irish varieties will grow well in the chinks of a dry wall; *Allosorus crispus*, Parsley Fern, should be shaded from a hot sun. It grows well among rocks in the English Lake district.

The small growing *Aspleniums*, *Lomaria alpina*, *L. chilensis*, and *Blechnum Spicant*, the hard fern,

are evergreen. All these can be planted in May and must be kept well watered the first season till they are established.

Many hardy bulbs can be planted among the ferns, as the hardy *Cyclamen Coum* and *C. cyprium*, dog-tooth Violets, Winter Aconites and other small plants. The hardy *Cypripediums*, Ladies' Slipper, do well under the same conditions as ferns, but should be kept rather dry in Winter. *C. Calceolus* is the English kind and *C. spectabile* perhaps the most beautiful. The *Cypripediums* would be best planted in Autumn, but when once established will need the roots covered with rotten leaf mould and watering with liquid manure in May ; they must have a damp place.

The seedlings sown in the hot-bed in January will be large enough to plant out. Margaret Carnations will only flower a little the first year, but will make good growth for next year and the foliage is always pretty. *Lobelia cardinalis* grows best in a very rich, damp soil in half shade, but *Salvia patens* can be planted in full sun and is the best blue of any flower : it grows to the height of one and a half feet. If you put most of your half-hardy seeds in heat in March the seedlings will now be ready to plant out where they are to flower. Make up your mind if any part of the garden is to be stiffly bedded out. Sometimes beds near the house, especially in the suburbs, are best treated in this way, but they should be done

with the utmost care, the plants kept separate as much as possible in bold groups, using Heliotropes, Fuchsias and Margaret Daisies for the background, and the places where tall things are needed; these will flower all the Summer.

Any *Zonal Pelargoniums*, so-called Geraniums, can be planted out after the 25th in groups keeping the colours together, they are not necessary to any garden, but if you have the accommodation to keep them during the Winter, planting them out improves them. Use the Lobelia in patches and near white or pale yellow flowers, keep it away from the Geraniums, it looks well falling over stones at the edge of a path, never use conceited-looking little dwarf *compacta* so beloved by the nurseryman and usually planted in rows. *Phlox Drummondii* and White Petunias should be planted where there is plenty of room as they must be pegged down as soon as they begin to grow; *Nemesia* and *Tagetes* go well together and tone with *Salpiglossis*. Indian Pinks look well with white Petunias.

One can hardly have too many Stocks in a garden, they are lovely things to look at and the smell is delicious. The seed has to be taken from the single kinds, so it is impossible to ensure all coming doubles, but the single have the same scent and colour and a very graceful growth; keep the colours together and plant them in groups.

There is no reason why a garden should be dull in Winter. We have already mentioned some flowering shrubs and plants in favourable districts ; but none are more valuable than the shrubby Veronicas, in cold places. The larger flowering kinds die in the Spring after flowering, but as their growth is so rapid this should not prevent them being grown, as cuttings can be taken every year as the plants themselves can be lifted and put in pots and kept in a shed in January or even left in the ground and covered with bracken. *V. Traversii* and its allies is the only one which can be called quite hardy in all parts of England, the flower is pale mauve and it is in flower in the Autumn ; *V. imperialis* is rich purple, *V. Andersoni* has bluish-violet flowers—there is a handsome variegated form of this one. *V. ligustrifolia* has very pretty foliage and a white flower ; they should all be planted early in May.

Probably the most familiar of all small shrubs is the Lavender, *Lavandula vera* ; it needs no description and yet with all its merits how seldom one sees it in small gardens, though in my opinion no garden should be without it. Perhaps the reason that it is not more often seen is that it quickly grows old and wants constant renewal from cuttings which can be struck in the open ground in May or in the July hot-bed ; it can also be grown from seed sown during the summer. There is another kind which is called Dutch Lavender,

it is smaller, has bluer flowers not so aromatic as the tall kind, and flowers a month earlier; they both want pretty good soil and feeding in light soils. Young plants can be transplanted now or later but not after September.

It is very difficult to remember when to prune *Cotoneasters* as they are among the few shrubs that have to be done when they are in flower; the reason is that they make their flowering growth directly after the berries are ripe, so the flowering time is the only safe one if you do not wish to cut off unseen buds or beautiful red fruit. In May they will be in flower and you can shorten back any long straggling growth that has not flowered. If against a wall decide how high you wish your plant to grow and how much it is to spread and then keep it within those bounds and take off the pieces that stretch forward away from the wall. At the same time watch for the queen wasps as *Cotoneaster* flowers are those they like best; it is better to catch them in May and thereby save many a nest from being built.

Primroses and Polyanthus should be taken up as soon as they have finished flowering, the seed-pods cut off, the soil forked and some fresh soil dug in and then the plants broken into small pieces with an eye and a root to each and put back where they were, if the bed is in half shade in an out-of-the-way place; but if it is in full sun they must be planted elsewhere until October.

If you grow any plants in tubs or big pots these can be put out at the beginning of the month, screen them for a week or two or stand them under big shrubs, but Fuchsias and Geraniums and other half-tender bedding plants must be stood out of doors on the 15th of the month in a sheltered place before being planted out. If you have any pits or places that can be covered at night they may be put outdoors the first week of this month.

If there is a warm corner of the house facing south or south-west a lemon-scented Verbena should be planted there in May. If the roots are covered with coal ashes in November they will live through any Winter in the south or west. In Devonshire and Cornwall the whole plant will survive and it can be saved in less warm counties if covered with a piece of matting all the Winter. It would be best to buy one in a pot that is well grown and about two feet high; do not cut it, as the growth of the roots corresponds with the growth of the branches all the first year; it makes astonishing growth every year—in very poor soils it will need feeding with well-rotted manure and leaf mould, old hot-bed stuff is the most useful for everything of the kind. If you have a *Plumbago capensis* in the greenhouse or can buy one in a pot it is a capital plant to put against a wall or in any place where something high is needed; it will flower all the Summer and the blue of its graceful

flowers is quite different from anything else. During dry weather it must be watered every day —this must be continued even though there are slight showers, it needs heavy rain to get to the roots of big plants and shrubs, especially when they are transplanted, as the roots do not reach any distance.

Now is the time to plant the window boxes ; if you wish a stiff arrangement of one or two kinds of flowers there is nothing prettier than the small white Margaret Daisy (*Chrysanthemum indicum*) for the back and the new large flowered *Verbena hybrida*, " May Flower," for the front ; musk is very sweet but has a tiresome way of going off after a few weeks ; Pansies do well, as does the ivy-leaved Geranium, the great thing to avoid is a gaudy mixture of crude colours. Do not buy plants in large pots already in full flower as these will go off very quickly ; small plants will grow if you cut the first flowers off. Water sparingly at first and then give all a good soaking whenever the box is dry, and have all your plants firmly planted and tied to sticks when necessary as a window is always rather exposed to the weather ; the soil must be renewed every year but should not be manured.

For those who have them, Begonias are worth taking trouble with ; if possible they should be brought on with heat, hot-bed or greenhouse. When potting up the dry tubers in March, they should be laid on the top of the soil, not covered

up, and watered carefully ; at the end of May they must be planted out in a bed specially prepared ; strong soil and a little manure is what they like. In the midland and eastern counties June will be early enough for planting them. Soap-suds suit them very well ; in dry weather they will need watering every day, soaking the roots and not allowing the water to touch the leaves. A few plants should be left in pots for the greenhouse, if you care to have that stocked during the Summer ; liquid manure put round them in showery weather or Clay's fertiliser sprinkled round their roots will make the blooms large and soot water will improve the foliage.

Cannas can be bought now, if you have none. They are handsome plants and flower well in rich soil in a hot Summer, but make only foliage in damp cold weather ; they will winter in any frost-proof shed or cellar and increase from year to year. They make charming plants for big pots or vases.

Do not let your Sweet Peas grow too tall before putting proper Pea-sticks for them to climb on ; if they seem at all weak dress the lines with rotted manure or water twice a week with weak liquid manure ; soot or any of the artificial manures are a great help sprinkled round the roots in showery weather.

Chrysanthemums in pots will be getting full of roots and they must be potted into their flowering pots next month, and the top shoot removed

and any other superfluous shoots ; leave the three strongest breaks at the top of each plant ; any that show buds must be cut down to within an inch of the soil, green fly and black aphis must be kept away by dusting the plants with tobacco powder.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Plant out the dwarf French Beans sown in heat during April and make new drills in which to sow Runner Beans, which should be treated like the dwarf kinds, the seeds, however, being planted six inches apart and thinned to a foot and the rows nine inches apart for what are called double rows in large gardens ; each double row should be five feet from its neighbour to allow of walking between the rows to pick the beans.

Sow more Peas of the dwarf kinds and if you care to try the French Sugar Pea, which can be eaten as it is and not shelled, they can be sown now and treated like other Peas ; they will need sticks, as they grow five feet high.

Sorrel can be grown now like other herbs, from seed or division ; May is the best time to sow it, there are two kinds, the common one, *Rumex Acetosa*, and the French Sorrel, *Rumex scutatus*, with round leaves ; both are most useful, the latter lasts the longest as it does not run to seed so quickly nor is it so acid ; both can be

boiled and cooked like spinach, either alone or mixed with lettuce going to seed, if too sour the white of an egg could be added. Sorrel is excellent cut up into fine shreds and added to a white soup with eggs in it, when it is called "Bonne Femme" (see any good cookery book).

If you have a hot-bed a few seeds of Vegetable Marrow should be sown at once ; if not put some in a pot with a piece of glass over it and put it in the kitchen window or sink it to the rim in the manure heaps. Prepare the bed by digging a shallow trench four feet wide, fill this up with half-rotten manure and leaves, grass cuttings, and any vegetable stuff that will quickly decay, and place the soil on the top. Plant the seedlings in this raised bed three feet apart and place a hand-light over each ; these should be lifted a little each day and a stone put under one side. If the sun is very strong a rhubarb leaf laid on the glass will prevent them being scorched, the Marrows will soon take root and can be left unprotected and need no support, but must be trained to grow away from each other. If you have room the fancy gourds can be grown in the same way, the yellow and green kinds are very ornamental and look well piled up in a dish in a dull room in winter, as they reflect the light ; the white and green kinds make excellent soups, as they belong to the pumpkin family and are less watery than Vegetable Marrows.

Chicory should be grown now in rows, the

Witloop or the improved broad-leaved variety will bleach best.

Sow again any Cabbage or Kale that has not come up well. Cabbage for mid-winter supply, such as Drum Head and Favourite should now be sown. Plant out all the young plants which are ready to move.

Prick out Celery and Celeriac to be ready to plant out next month. Celery will need trenches, but Celeriac has to be planted on the top of the ground—the soil must be very good, so have the ground prepared now.

As Tomato plants have to be forced early to grow in time for planting out of doors and they can be bought very cheaply, the best plan is to get some young plants in May and plant in very rich soil liberally manured ; they will fruit well if on a south or west wall. If you have any glass, they are best grown in large deep boxes filled with the best soil you can give them ; put manure at the top and leave room for a further top dressing (laying manure round the roots) to be applied later on.

Cucumbers are of two kinds, the frame or tender sort and the hardy or ridge. As the former need a house or frame kept to a certain heat and a very moist atmosphere, they are best bought when they are wanted for eating, but a few ridge cucumbers can be sown in April in the same way as the Vegetable Marrows and then planted in a

bed made like the Marrow bed. They will grow with no looking after beyond watering in dry weather and weeding.

When your hot-bed frames are empty towards the end of May enterprising young gardeners might like to make up a new hot-bed in a good situation in order to grow Cucumbers, or Melons. Cucumbers are so cheap now even in the country that I think it is better worth while to grow Melons for those who like them—but this is another story and we can only refer you to Sutton's *Culture of Vegetables and Flowers*. Both Cucumbers and Melons require a good deal of attention and constant care, but their treatment can soon be learnt. If you decide to grow them they will be over by September and the cold frame will then be ready for the double Violets which are mentioned in September.

CHAPTER VI

JUNE

"You find me in my garden dress ; you will excuse it, I know. It is an ancient pursuit, gardening. Primitive, my dear sir ; for if I am not mistaken, Adam was the first of our calling."—PECKSNIFF.

ENGLISH Summers are so seldom dry that gardeners have a prejudice against watering plants growing in the open. Where the garden can be watered sufficiently, watering answers admirably. At Hampton Court in the dry summer of 1911 relays of men watered day and night and the result was excellent ; where it can only be partially done all the attention must be given to what you intend to save, and these must be well soaked. A general sprinkling all over the garden is fatal, it draws the roots to the surface and these get scorched by the sun. The things you cannot water must be mulched by laying long manure, which is manure with straw not rotted, or leaf mould round the roots, the bed hoed in dry weather. Shrubs can be killed by a little watering ; at Woodlands a

succession of cherry trees on a wall were killed by watering the violets in the same bed during June and July. An experiment was tried of giving a gooseberry bush a little water every day and it died in a week. It is always safe to water in showery weather when the rain is not sufficient to get into the ground, and plants out of doors in pots or tubs should be watered every day, as even heavy rain very often does not get to the roots, for the thick leaves carry it off and in dry weather there is much evaporation through the pot. Shrubs which have been lately planted are much benefited by a *good soaking* at the roots once a week, and if in bud a dose of weak liquid manure will help them. For precious, newly-planted shrubs an empty pot sunk in the ground at the side of the plant, on the highest side if the ground is not level, and filled constantly with water will ensure the moisture getting gradually to the roots. It is quite useless to water if the soil is hard on the surface, as it runs off and does not go to the roots. The soil should often be hoed in dry weather, and one good way of ensuring the water going to the roots of small plants is to thrust in a thick stick near them which makes a good sized hole.

In June, the long dead yellow stalks of the *Fritillaria Imperialis* (Crown Imperials) can be pulled off, and this is the time when the bulb should be planted, or dug up and divided if the

stock is to be increased ; but the more they are left alone the better, and disturbing them in the Autumn is fatal and only makes a weedy growth and no flower the following year. They are among the handsomest of Spring flowers but rarely seen well grown. They grow three or four feet high and are a great ornament to the mixed border in April. They should be set eight inches or ten inches apart as soon as the leaves are quite yellow ; the two best are an orange-red and a pure pale yellow. If you find you cannot buy them now get them in as early as possible in October and top dress them in winter with manure. They are greedy feeders.

The general rule has been laid down elsewhere that all flowering shrubs should be pruned directly after flowering except American shrubs, Rhododendrons. Azaleas, *Kalmias*, *Andromedas*, etc., or where the seed vessels or berries are beautiful. A good many shrubs flower in May. The so-called Lilacs, which are really Syringas, should be freely cut when in flower and the house filled with their delicious blossoms. Always remember to peel the stalks and put them in water directly they are gathered ; if you are sending any away let them have a good drink before starting on the journey.

When the bloom is over every piece that has flowered must be cut away and all the suckers or young growth round the roots pulled up ; they can

be planted elsewhere, if the lilac is on its own roots (which means not grafted) as is the case with most of the common sorts. Laburnums are better for having their seed pods cut off and Guelder Roses, *Diervilla*, *Ribes* (flowering Currants), and *Philadelphus* (called Syringas) can all be pruned now; cut out what has flowered and if the shrub looks choked up and starved, cut out some pieces from the middle and put well-rotted manure round the roots. Any pieces that are healthy and young without being sappy can be stuck in the ground in the shade and will strike if not allowed to wither in dry weather.

The early part of June is the best time to disbud Carnations, which make far more buds than they can bring to perfection. Take a sharp pair of very pointed scissors and snip off the little buds on either side of the first centre bud on each shoot and if there are others lower down the stem take off two out of three. At the same time, tie up each shoot to a stick fairly loosely but quite securely.

Early Tulips will have become unsightly by now and the leaves will be yellow. The bulbs should be dug up and dried in the sun and put away carefully in a dry place till October. Petunias and *Phlox Drummondii* which have grown well should be pegged down to the ground, with the wires shaped like hairpins, that can be bought at

the seed merchant's ; this operation causes them to flower much more freely and keeps the plants a good shape. When your sweet peas are in bud, they should be syringed in the late afternoon when the sun is off them on bright days ; directly the flowers begin to go off, pick them, as if allowed to go to seed you will soon have no blossoms. If you wish very fine blooms, bullock's blood poured round the roots when the plants are coming into flower is much recommended by some pea-growers. They will be needing sticks to climb on if not already supplied.

Thin out all annuals that are at all crowded. Keep the borders tidy and cut off all dead flower stems which are not needed for seed. Take up the earliest Virginian Stock if it is over, *Limnanthes* will be faded, but enough should be left to sow itself for next year ; one patch will do, as it increases very rapidly. Things grow so fast that it will be necessary to watch carefully and put stakes in for all plants that need them before it is too late. *Campanula persicifolia* will be dashed to the ground in one night if not supported. A most useful support for tall plants which are difficult to stake is made of three thin pieces of iron joined together by three rings at intervals. This forms a cage like the wire paper baskets one sees in French public gardens ; these are painted green and left always over the plant which grows in the centre

and the foliage hides its support. They are quite cheap to have made and last for ever.

Few bulbs are so well worth buying as *Ornithogalum pyramidale*, but the first dozen are better got from France if possible, as they are so little grown in England and increase easily; lately they have been in some bulb catalogues; Lionel Perkin, of Surbiton, had some good bulbs this year. They are most charming flowers to grow, but gardeners hardly ever grow them because they require to be lifted every year, if possible, after flowering and dried in the sun for a month, the small bulbs being re-planted under apple trees or gooseberry bushes at once. The large bulbs should be replanted in October. Another disadvantage to them is that the leaves turn yellow and die off before the flower appears.

Flowers in window boxes go off rather quickly. Cut off all dead blooms and stimulate the plants with a little Clay's fertiliser sprinkled on the soil once a week, keep the soil stirred or it will become caked and the water will run off. If the plants do not thrive and the leaves turn yellow, stop watering until the soil is quite dry and if they do not soon recover, pull them up; there are either wireworms or ants at work, or the drainage is choked up. At this time of year ants are often very destructive in the garden, not that they eat

the plants but they make their nests in the beds and work the soil away from the roots. When plants look ill suddenly in full growth, examine the soil and see if there are any ants ; if so, dig away as much as you can without disturbing the plants, and then pour boiling water on to the soil or dig in some vaporite, which can be bought in tins of any seed merchant.

Keep your roses picked and remove all the dead flowers ; in cutting roses, remember that the buds for the second bloom come just above a leaf. June roses should never be cut with a long stalk as this destroys the later growth ; tea roses have such weak stalks they are best picked quite short and floated in a glass bowl filled to the brim with water. Syringe the buds if blighted with soft soap and petroleum in weak solution, two oz. of petroleum to a gallon of soap suds.

Chrysanthemums in pots will be growing fast and should be potted into the large-size flowering pots the first week in June. Good drainage is most important with Chrysanthemums, place a large crock over the hole at the bottom of the pot, in an inverted position, then arrange some loose pieces, and some crushed mortar rubbish or a few cinders should come next, and then a layer of fibre with every particle of soil removed. Each plant should be watered a few hours before potting. The soil should be prepared beforehand and should

consist of loam pulled to pieces about the size of a walnut ; add to this road grit and Clay's fertiliser, a six-inch potful to every two bushels of soil, and a little finely broken charcoal ; pot very firmly, but do not quite fill the pot with soil as room must be left for watering and for adding some manure later if necessary. Ram the soil down the sides of the pot with a stick, sprinkle some coarse sand on the top and label each plant. Only damp the surface, do not thoroughly soak the plant for a few days, but syringe during the day to keep the foliage from flagging. Stand the pots in a very sunny open position, after a few days of shade, on a bed of cinders or on boards, and put a thick stake at either end with a string between and tie the stake in each pot to the string ; this will prevent the pots from being blown over in rough weather. As soon as they have recovered from the move and started into fresh growth, remove all unnecessary shoots which are not likely to bloom and early buds should be nipped off ; stir the soil at intervals, but only on the surface, to prevent it getting hard and weedy. A dusting of soot occasionally will keep the leaves a good colour. Later, after the pots are filled up, a circle of cow manure and clay round the extreme edge of the pot enlarges the surface and prevents waste in watering.

London Pride is very lovely in flower, but looks

untidy when it is over; cut off all the dead flowers.

If you have a greenhouse it is a good plan at the end of June to turn all the plants out of doors on some warm day, a wet one will do quite well, and scrub the house down with soft water in which a cup of paraffin has been added to a bucket of water; this cleans the paint and keeps away insects. Then rearrange the plants in groups, keeping all plants of the same kind together. A greenhouse may be kept very gay in the summer with the better sorts of Pelargoniums, Petunias, Tobacco plants, Musks, Lobelias, Ferns, etc.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Broad beans are very subject to being infested with the bean fly, which appears to lay its eggs in the last bloom, quite at the top of the plant, and if not destroyed the insect descends to the bottom, besides covering each bean pod. The best cure is to top the bean before it blooms, quite at the top, taking off four inches of stalk, if you have neglected to do this early in June dust the top with slaked lime (which has been exposed to the air).

Plant out any of the cabbages that are most forward. Cauliflowers and Brussels Sprouts

should also be planted now from the seed bed: throw away any that are blind and have no eye. Dust the turnip bed with soot and lime. A few of the largest spring-sown onions can be picked out of the bed and planted in rows in a shallow drill with burnt rubbish dug in and watered with manure water before planting, the drills should be nine inches apart and the onions six inches. Use the hoe frequently between the rows and water till the onions are well established. Sow some more lettuce seed now. Mulch your leeks with rotten manure laid at the roots if they are at all backward. As soon as the first crop of peas is gathered, dig your Celery trenches in their place; they should be ten inches deep, eighteen inches wide at the bottom and four feet apart and should have at least six inches of rotten manure at the bottom covered with fine soil, the drills should run from north to south. Lift the plants carefully out of the boxes and plant them in the centre of the trench six inches to nine inches apart, they should be watered as soon as they are planted that there may be no check. If the weather is very hot place pea-sticks across the trenches and put light branches to give shade, till they are well established. It is always well to have a good supply of celery for soup, any plants over after you have filled the trenches should

be planted out and not earthed up; they will last until the Spring for soup.

Sow more beans of the dwarf French and Runner kinds, the latter can be planted under apple trees and they run up into the branches which protect them from the frost in the Autumn. Sow broad-leaved Endive and some of the curly sort. Sow more Spring Onions, if they are liked they are acceptable all the year round. At the end of the month Turnips may be sown again. Broad Beans are so good when very young that it is worth while, if your soil is heavy, to sow some more and eat those that are ready, when still quite babies. Parsley should be thinned out to six inches apart, transplanting those you pull up. The earliest leeks can be thinned out, also lettuce and endive, using the thinnings as salad. Radishes are good if grown quickly and kept watered, and are best sown in rows, very thinly, between other crops to ensure shade. Continue to sow peas the first week, but later is waste of time. Sow parsley for winter use. Dig some small trenches on the model of those for celery already described and plant out the leeks; if earthed up later on they will make much better vegetables as there will be plenty of the long white tender part. On a dry day the early potatoes may be dug and left on the ground to dry, and not eaten for *at least* a week, handle

them very carefully. It is not generally known that new potatoes are much more digestible if soaked for some hours in cold water before they are eaten. If the potatoes for the day are put in water every morning directly after breakfast this is not forgotten, and the green colour of the water will perhaps persuade a conservative cook that the unripe unwholesome juices have been extracted.

Endive is so seldom appreciated, though it grows so easily, that the reason must surely be a want of knowledge in the cooking. Well thinned out, the plants grow very rapidly, and two or three stewed will make a delicious dish quite as good as, if not better than, spinach. Boil the leaves in salt and water, as if you were doing cabbage. When tender, pour the whole on a large sieve and as soon as the hot water has drained away, put the sieve under the tap and let cold water run on for some time. Then chop the endive on a chopping board or rub it through a fine wire sieve, return it to the fire and put a piece of butter to dissolve in a china saucepan with a teaspoonful of flour; do not put the vegetable in before the butter and flour are well amalgamated; stir it well and let it simmer for another fifteen minutes. Add a little cream or milk quite at the last moment, it must not be thicker than a thin purée.

Plant out the sugar corn sown in the frame in

April in a deep, well manured trench and earth it up as it grows. At the end of the month dig up the potatoes, onions, and shallots. They should be left on the ground to dry for twenty-four hours before being stored.

CHAPTER VII

JULY

"There's never a garden in all the parish but what there's endless waste in it for want o' somebody as could use everything up. It's what I think to myself sometimes, as there need nobody run short of victuals if the land was made the most on. There was never a morsel but what could find its way to a mouth. It sets one thinking o' that—gardening does."—SILAS MARNER.

IF you have a gardener this is the month when he must be watched and the shears kept away from him ; clipping all shrubs into flat banks or round puddings is the delight of most gardeners or in fact of most men who pretend to do any garden work. This wholesale shearing is quite fatal to all beauty and grace in shrubberies and will ruin many flowering shrubs. All evergreen shrubs which do not flower should have been pruned with judicious severity in March or April ; the reason gardeners like putting this off till July is that the shrubs do not grow again. The only things that need shears are hedges of box, yew or thuja if

they are to be kept quite stiff; all other shrubs should be allowed to keep their natural shape, only cutting out big branches if they get too thick and big and taking off the shoots which are in the way for any reason, always remembering to cut just above a break or bud. Flowering shrubs must be cut back after flowering except American plants as stated before, because they make their buds for next year directly the seed pods are ripe, and any plants which have ornamental berries such as Cotoneasters and Pernettyas. Any old laurels which have become unsightly can be cut down to the ground as directed in October. Privet hedges look far better cut back with nippers but it takes much longer than when they are done with the shears. Many of the June flowering plants will be over this month and the borders must be looked over and any spaces filled up with Asters, Zinnias and Marigolds and at the back Phloxes and outdoor early flowering Chrysanthemums and Michaelmas Daisies from the reserve garden. Where there is no reserve little half-hardy annuals can be bought at the market quite cheap and at the beginning of the month Nasturtiums may be sown as they will go on flowering until cut down by frost in October. Every Michaelmas Daisy, Dahlia and Sunflower must have a stout stake to tie it to, never leave this until the plant is full grown; the stake should be put in before the plant needs a stake and then it will grow round the

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support and hide it. Nothing looks worse in a garden than some poor thing which has been blown on to the ground and therefore has flowered in a deformed, unnatural way, forced up against a stake and contorted into a sort of straightness which has nothing natural about it. Creepers on a house grow very fast in July and should be watched and fastened against the wall with the new patent nails, not stiffly, but enough to prevent them growing in the wrong direction or blowing about and breaking. Most perennials can be sown in July, *Delphiniums*, Lupins, both tree and *Lupinus polyphyllus*, Pansies, *Gaillardia grandiflora*, *Coreopsis grandiflora*, *Campanula persicifolia* and *pyramidalis*, *Aquilegia* (Columbines), *Pyrethrum hybridum* and Oriental Poppies.

Perennials are sown in a drill in the reserve garden, and remember that some of them are to be left until the following Spring before being planted out, therefore sow very thinly. East Lothian Stocks sown in May do very much better if planted now where they are to bloom next Spring, but if this is impossible they must be planted somewhere in the shade and moved with a good ball of earth in October.

Heartsease or Pansies are quite different from Violas; they are fascinating flowers in small gardens if well grown, but they require a good deal of attention. The seed should be bought from a first-class nurseryman and sown in June or

July out of doors in a seed-bed in the open ground or in a box. They must be kept well watered and when they begin to show bloom in the Autumn transplanted to the bed, which should be sunny and warm, where they are to bloom the following Spring. The best kinds can be propagated by layering like Carnations without splitting the stem, but pegged down with a hairpin or a little wooden peg at a joint, or by cuttings stuck into pure sand and covered with a bell-glass. If they do well and are kept watered the seeds of the prettiest flowers can be saved to keep up a good supply for every Spring; seeds must be sown annually. Violas are much easier to cultivate than pansies, buy, or beg, borrow or steal a few plants, any neighbour who grows them will give them you especially in the Autumn; plant them in a rose bed in April where they look best all one colour, I prefer the light blue ones; cut them down hard in July, when they make a pretty tufty growth; lift these in October and pull them to pieces, see that each piece has a root; plant them in rows in the kitchen garden in half shade, which means, not sun for part of the day; by the Spring they will be good little plants. Put them back in April where you wish them to flower, and if you want to make a good show and the plants have not grown very much you can plant two or three together. Violas can be grown from seed but do not always come true to name or colour. Any

seedlings that are growing overcrowded in the seed beds must now have attention. Wallflowers should be planted out six inches apart, if you have room to spare them a reserve bed, if not room must be found for them at the back of borders, planting one here and there where there is a space. This applies equally to all biennials, which must not be left crowded up in the seed drills. Always try to put plants which are to flower the following year in a rather shady place, but not under low trees or shrubs, or they will get drawn up and lanky.

During July there is one most important thing that must not be neglected if you wish to increase your stock of plants ; for those who have a reserve garden special beds can be made for cuttings with fine sand on the surface, but if you have only a small garden and all must look trim and neat you can put your cuttings in a shady spot about one foot square and cover them with square hand glasses advertised in gardening papers. Pansies, *Pentstemon*, *Calceolaria amplexicaulis*, *Gazanias*, *Pelargoniums* (zonal) and any rather tender plants as well as Lavender and all the small shrubs can be increased in this way. Always cut off your shoots where there is no flower-bud, strip off the leaves to near the top, cut the stalk crossways at a joint where the leaves have been taken off and have them not too long but just the height to allow the leaves left on to clear the ground when the rest of the stalk is one or two inches below the sand.

A little cocoanut fibre mixed with the sand is a help for all cuttings ; make the ground very firm round the pieces which can be planted close together as they will not grow large until they have made a considerable amount of root. As I mentioned Zonal Pelargoniums just now I think this is a good place to explain the difference, so puzzling to many people, between a Pelargonium and a Geranium, almost as great a difficulty to the novice in gardening as the old puzzle of what is the distinction between a Vicar and a Rector presents to a layman. In the first place a Geranium is really a hardy perennial sometimes called a Crane's Bill ; it is a native of the fields and woods of Europe ; the little wild pink one which grows on banks in most parts of England is one of the family, and the best garden kinds are *G. sanguineum*, a dwarf magenta, *G. pratense*, a tall growing kind with purple flowers of a blue shade, *G. Endressi*, *G. nodosum album* (the white form of the wild kind), are all worth growing. All the so-called Geraniums, which are tender and must be housed during Winter in heat and are natives of places South of the Equator, are really Pelargoniums ; these are of many varieties, those with plain green leaves with a dark mark and self-coloured flowers are called Zonal, the best known for bedding are Henry Jacoby Improved, Paul Crampel, Enid, Mr. Gladstone, King Edward VII., Snow Drop, Phyllis of the singles ; and Raspail Improved, King of

Denmark, Ville de Poitiers and Dr. Jacoby of the doubles. These can all be flowered in pots, planted out during the Summer, or grown in tubs.

Another variety are those with variegated leaves of which the green and white is the prettiest, Dolly Varden and Empress of India are good and Silver Crown is a useful dwarf. The ivy-leaved sorts are very free-growing and are more hardy than any other kind, Souvenir of Charles Turner, Achievement, Bridal Wreath, Madame Crousse, Duke of Edinburgh are all worth growing. The most precious of all the varieties are the sweet-scented Cape varieties of which the best of all is Prince of Orange, then comes Lady Scarborough, *pilosum* which smells of peppermint, *fragrantissimum*, well named, the old Oak-leaf, which is sticky and grows into quite a small tree, Clorinda, the strongest grower, and there are many others.

What are called Show Pelargoniums are blotched with darker colour on the petals and have a different leaf from the Zonals. They are not used at all for bedding and are best forced into flower in May if you have a greenhouse. All Pelargoniums can be increased by cuttings out of doors in July, if you have no special place to put them let them rest by their parents.

The double Sweet Rocket, recommended in October, should be broken up and replanted as soon as it has finished flowering. There is yet

time to dig up and dry the bulbs of *Ornithogalum pyramidale* if not already done as recommended in June. The grass where bulbs are planted should be scythed now. All especially good annuals and perennials which have flowered well should have a piece of wool tied round the stem of the seed pod to mark which are the best flowers worth saving as seed. When you collect seed it should be gathered just ripe or nearly so, this can be judged by the way it comes away from the pod ; it should then be placed in a bowl in a sunny window to dry.

Carnations and Picotees may be propagated during this month or be postponed until August if you have any old plants, those two years old are the most valuable. Prepare a compost, which means a mixture of soil, in this case it should be equal parts of loam, leaf-mould and silver sand sifted finely, scrape away the earth all round the plant to the depth of two inches and replace it with the compost, then strip each shoot up to the top, three or four joints (the thick part, where the leaves grow) going all round the plant before proceeding further. Then with a fine sharp knife cut half through a shoot just above a joint, making a slanting cut down through the joint, bring the knife out just below it ; take a peg with a hook in it, and thrust it into the fresh compost just above the tongue so that it catches the shoot as it comes down and pegs it into the earth, Then cover it with a little more compost pressed firmly, proceed

thus all round the plant, finally carefully watering with a fine rose watering-pot to settle the soil round the layers. In about a month the layers will be rooted and by the second week in October all the young plants ought to be in their Winter quarters, in the reserve garden or planted where they are wanted to flower. The shoots can be struck also in this way ; take the shoot just above the fourth or fifth joint from the top and with a sharp pull draw it out of the socket formed by the next joint, which it must pull away with it ; make a little upward slit in the cutting just through the joint and thrust it firmly into the edge of a pot filled with the compost described for layers, water the pot and thrust it into cocoanut fibre with a hand glass over it.

There are no more interesting and charming plants for greenhouse, border, and rockery than the Campanulas. It is a large family and all, I fancy, can be grown from seed. The Campanula or Bell-flower best known is the Canterbury Bell (*C. Medium*). This and *C. pyramidalis* are both suitable for pot cultivation. The Canterbury Bell is a biennial, but *C. pyramidalis*, a perennial, can be increased by dividing the roots of any especially good coloured ones. They should be sown in April or May, "pricked out" in good soil in half shade ; this term is used to describe the process of planting out small seedlings which grow very close together and must be carefully taken up with a

small pointed stick and replanted in holes made with the same stick. The largest plants of *C. pyramidalis* should be potted up in November and kept watered. They never flower in perfection without some overhead protection, just when the buds are opening, a porch, a passage, a veranda or a shaded greenhouse. They go off quickly if left in full sun. *C. persicifolia* is a lovely border plant when well grown, the *C. alba plena* is a cup and saucer kind and *C. Moorheimi* is the double one, but I do not think it is so pretty as the single or the cup and saucer ones. The Japanese Campanula (*Platycodon Mariesii*) is not strictly a Campanula, I believe it is sometimes called the China Bell-flower, and has lovely buds like Chinese lanterns ; it is perhaps the best border plant of all and it likes the sun. *C. lactiflora* must be grown from seed but moves badly unless very small, and takes two or even three years to come to its full height, about five feet, and great perfection ; they vary much in colour, as they are apt to grow pale the seeds of the best blues must be kept. *C. macrantha* is a very handsome plant, tall and with good foliage, a native of Russia ; *C. grandis* is a useful plant, grows best in shade, has long flower-stems produced out of many barren shoots which form dense neat rosettes, it can be broken up to any extent, it remains only a short time in flower; *C. glomerata* wants rather a good soil, the green stems are terminated by a dense cluster of flowers of a deep purple colour, when well-grown

it is one of the finest of the border bell flowers, *C. rapunculoides* is a lovely graceful flower stem but it has a creeping root and is a terrible weed and so had better be kept in out-of-the-way places, but it is quite worth growing. *C. Rapunculus* (Rampion), a biennial, was mentioned as a vegetable but it would look well on any rockery (if not too dry) in spite of its tall flowering branches, among other and low growing Campanulas, which are so useful to break down stone edgings, such as *C. carpatica* blue, and white variety *C. cæspitosa*, and its smaller variety *C. Numila*; *C. fragilis* is pretty because of its grey leaves and pale flowers. *C. rotundifolia* is a wild English plant and loses none of its beauty by being well-known; in early spring its round-leaved character is fully shown, but as the flower stems are developed these gradually die away and the leaves which accompany the flowers are long and narrow. *C. isophylla* both blue and white can be grown on a rockery or in pots; it is a favourite cottage window plant, but does not do well in sun and likes lots of water in hot weather; a saucer helps to retain its moisture and prevents drip when it is grown in a room.

The rock plants recommended in March can be sown now. It is a good plan for Summer-sown seeds to mark out a space about the size of a small frame and surround it with turf or small trunks of trees; when you have sown your seeds in pots, pans or boxes, place them inside this enclosure

and surround each with cocoanut fibre ; if there are animals about cover all with some fish netting draped over sticks so that it can be removed for watering or weeding.

This is the month for cottage flower-shows and much may be learned from visiting them ; always take your note book and mark down the names of all the plants you admire that are not already in your garden. When you get home, look them up and find out how they are propagated, whether from seeds, bulbs, or cuttings, and try to grow them yourself ; the same thing applies when visiting other people's gardens. This is quite a different thing from imitating the tiresome amateur, who though absolutely ignorant of gardening, visits the great Spring show in the Temple Gardens or some specialist nursery and goes home to scold his gardener because among the hundreds of plants he is expected to grow, his specimens of Begonias, Chrysanthemums, Primulas, or whatever took the fancy of the grumbler cannot compete with the specimens shown by the man who gave up his whole time to that one kind of plant ; this is most discouraging to gardeners and is one of the disadvantages of the large flower-shows, another being the fact that the exhibits are so wonderful, often grown under glass, that the humble amateur is overwhelmed and discouraged and leaves the show with a bewildered sense of grandeur and beauty, but no definite lesson learnt. This soon dis-

appears as knowledge increases and the fortnightly Royal Horticultural shows in Vincent Square are sources of great instruction to all, even those who are only beginners ; they are open to the public as well as to subscribers, and the dates are advertised in *The Times* and the gardening papers.

Chrysanthemums in pots must never be neglected for a day, water must be given every day unless it rains enough thoroughly to soak the pots ; change the short sticks for longer ones directly it is necessary and dust the top shoots with tobacco powder if any sign of green fly shows on them.

Keep your Dahlia plants to one stem, remove all the shoots which come from the root or up the stem to the height of one foot. Remove all dead flowers from your Pinks and Carnation plants, tie up Pentstemon and Gladioli. If the front of the herbaceous border is dull and you have any tall perennial sunflowers at the back a few branches may be brought forward and pegged down, they will flower along the stalk as Petunias do.

Nearly all shrubs, flowering and evergreen, will strike now if put in a hot-bed ; prepare one on the same principle as the one in January and when it has cooled sufficiently put in cuttings of all the things you wish to strike, coarse sand and cocoanut fibre will help the cuttings to take hold quickly ; put all soft things which will grow tall in the Spring, such as Pentstemon, Paris Daisies, Calceolarias, Salvias, etc., at the back and hard-

wooded, slow-growing things such as Veronicas, Lavender, Rosemary, Myrtle, etc., in front. Pinks and Carnations will also strike now, but will not make such good plants as those layered in the open. The hot-bed must be kept shaded and watered when at all dry, let in a little air every day but not enough to cool it down. The best of all the Nasturtiums, *Tropaeolum fulgens*, which does not come true from seed should be grown every year from cuttings. It is a lovely thing, the flower is not quite as big as the other Nasturtiums, a bright scarlet colour, and the leaves are very dark with a beautiful bloom on them. Planted against a south wall it will flower until the frost comes and is satisfactorily picked.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Keep the kitchen garden very tidy and remove all pea and bean tops when they are over. Have the ground dug over at once and give a good dressing of soot or quicklime, which means fresh unslaked lime, to destroy the slugs. Continue to plant out all winter greens and sow a few rows of corn salad. This is a very satisfactory winter salad much used in France and very little grown in England; it can be cooked like spinach as well as eaten raw, all seed merchants now sell the seed,

it will need thinning out to three inches apart so do not sow at all thickly.

This is the best month to plant the main crop of Celery, in trenches, described last month. Plant a double row in each trench, the trenches to be three feet apart. Celeriac does not need a trench but should be planted out in good soil a foot apart each way and quite on the surface ; it must be kept well-watered. The last crop of Kidney or French Beans should be sown now. The potato onions and shallots should be dug up and stored, if not done last month. Sow parsley for Winter and Spring use and cut off the first leaves of what is already up. Stake the Runner Beans before they grow too tall ; the stakes should be six feet high and thrust firmly into the ground ; they should be in rows leaning towards each other and crossing at the top.

The tomato plants out of doors will need staking and watering with liquid manure when the fruit forms. Remove all side shoots and useless foliage. Sow some turnip seed in the ground left vacant by the early potatoes having been dug.

The heading of this chapter speaks of the waste which goes on in every garden ; this is true even in a small one, a packet of seed will sometimes produce a hundred more seedlings than are required ; with a little trouble someone will be found only too thankful to accept those you do not want, but in the kitchen garden the waste is

most to be deplored because good foodstuff is often left to rot on the ground ; there is hardly a scrap that need be wasted if pigs and poultry are kept, but if not the coarse leaves of cabbages, tops of rhubarb, potatoes, peas, and beans must be put at the bottom of the leaf-mould heap or burnt but most other vegetables can be made use of, if their cooking is properly understood.

Always try to give away to those with no vegetable garden anything of which you have a superabundance ;¹ the outsides of lettuces and endive, pea pods, carrot and parsnip and turnip tops, the coarser parts of celery, onion and leek tops, and in fact anything that is not decayed and that is part of a vegetable, excepting always the cabbage tribe, which has rather too coarse a flavour, can be used for vegetarian soup. Cut all up small enough to go into a big earthenware stew-pot and let it cook for twelve hours, removing the scum if you wish to have the stock clear. This will make an excellent foundation for the delicious vegetable soups for which recipes are given in all good cookery books. For those who for any reason do not take meat, there is no necessity to add any bones or meat essence to make excellent and savoury soup, only a little butter.

Pruning raspberries is a most important detail of the fruit garden. Directly the fruiting time is

¹ Cottage hospitals are very grateful for vegetables and fruit.

over, all the old canes should be cut out, and of the young growths only one, two, or at the most three, should be left according to the strength of the plants.

If you did not sow the variegated Kale in May there is yet time. No garden should be without them as they make such a splendid splash of colour from November to April, when they finish up with a triumphal burst of lovely yellow flowers. A big patch should be sown in the vegetable garden and some planted in the flower beds, and securely tied to strong sticks, as they grow tall and top-heavy.

CHAPTER VIII

AUGUST

“ Songs, Spring thought perfection,
 Summer criticises ;
What in May escaped detection,
 August, past surprises
Notes, and names each blunder.”

—BROWNING.

AUGUST is the month of the whole year when there is perhaps the least to do in the garden ; and is the month when it is safest to go away from it, but there is plenty that can be done, in the way of pruning and cutting back coarse shrubs that do not flower and collecting seeds of early flowering things like brooms. This is the month when the lovely old Madonna Lilies (*Lilium candidum*) can safely be planted ; either moved from another part of the garden or bought. It is best to get some from the nearest nursery or from a cottage garden, as they should be replanted at once ; they very soon begin to grow their Autumn leaves, and if moved then, it injures them very much and they do not flower the next year. *Iris stylosa*, recom-

mended in February, should be bought and planted now under a south wall, or under a yew hedge, or in any well-drained sunny situation. Once planted, they should never be moved and the more they are starved, the better they flower. They are worth giving a good situation and when picked in bud to flower in the house, they are the pride and joy of a Winter's day.

Every garden should have some place in which to make a store for leaf-mould. The best place is against a fence or wall, behind some shrubs or in the field. A space should be divided by some slats of wood into two compartments, like stalls in a stable, all garden refuse that is not full of seeds or roots of weeds can be thrown into the first stall, together with all the leaves you can collect, and the sweepings from the drive and gravel paths, and dead flowers from the house. When this heap is as high as the palings will hold it, it must be turned over to the other stall and will be ready, when quite decayed and rotted to the consistency of mould, to use for potting or for putting on the garden beds, and the first stall can be filled by degrees as before. Never throw any plants which have been taken up because they have become a nuisance in the garden on this heap, as things you want to get rid of will live, if you give them the least chance ; they must be put on the bonfire. Some place should be reserved for a bonfire, as the rubbish should be burnt always on the same spot and some of the

ashes left, for a fire starts so much quicker on a good foundation of ashes. Where any animals are kept, a third stall should be cemented at the bottom, for manure; it should be made with a slant towards the centre, and a tub sunk to receive the liquid. In places where there are cesspools they can be emptied into this.

If the weather is fairly cool and there are showers, a little of the Autumn work may begin. Pyrethrums can be planted or divided now, never later, as they must be well established before the Winter begins. Cuttings of all the rambling roses, sweetbriars, the newer Penzance briars and the little hardy noisettes, also the *Wichurianas*, can be struck now in a shady place, in sand or road grit and well watered. Any low branches of shrubs you wish to increase can be pulled down. Scratched at the back a little with a knife and covered with soil, and a big stone to keep them in place, these will soon root and make good plants, but all veronicas, rock cistus, and small upright shrubs are best increased by cuttings in the hot-bed prepared in July.

As soon as the autumn bulb catalogue arrives, the list should be made out. There are so many places now where good bulbs can be bought cheap, and everyone must judge for himself, we only mention two, out of many which are reliable: Lionel Perkin, Berrylands, Surbiton, and Hogg and Robertson, 22 Mary Street, Dublin. For the

amateur, it is preferable to deal with the smaller, rather than the large firms, as one is apt to get more individual attention. From experience, it cannot be too much emphasised that it is most important to get the pick of the bulbs by ordering early. The following list will be a guide as to the best and cheapest for making a show in the house and out of doors ; but every gardener should keep ears and eyes open for every sort of flower and make notes of names continually, in private gardens and at shows, and should visit Botanical Gardens at every opportunity.

FOR BOWLS

Single Hyacinths, Grand Maître, blue ; Cardinal Wiseman, pink ; La Française, white ; Roman hyacinths. *Narcissus*, Paper white, Poetry, Elvira, Cynosure, Obvallaris, Emperor, Golden Spur, *Campernelli rugulosus* ; Tulips, Rose, Gris de lin, White Hawk, Yellow Prince ; *Freesia refracta alba*, *Leichtlini major*, *Scilla nutans major*.

OUT-DOORS

Tulips, Joost van Vondel, white, Cottage Maid, rose, Crimson King, Golden Queen, yellow ; May-flowering tulips, *Gesneriana spatulata*, crimson ; Golden Crown, yellow ; Inglescombe, pink ; Picotee, white with pink tip ; Darwin tulip the Sultan, dark maroon ; Margaret, soft pink ; White Queen.

Narcissus, Stella, Leedstii, Grandee, Poeticus ornatus, Telamonius plenus (the old double Daffodil), *incomparabilis*, Golden Phœnix, Butter and Eggs; Winter Aconites, *Anemone apennina*, single blue for rock garden or border, *A. fulgens*, scarlet, *A. St. Brigid*, double and single, mixed colours; *Crocus*, Sir Walter Scott, striped, *purpurea*, dark purple, *Mont Blanc*, white, large yellow. *Gladiolus Colvillei albus*, white, flowers in May and June, G. Peach blossom, salmon pink; *Iris hispanica*, *I. Belle chinoise*, yellow, *I. Blanche superbe*, white, *I. King of the Blues*; *Iris anglica*, mixed colours. *Scilla campanulata major*, blue and white; *S. nutans caerulea*, the common wood hyacinth, *S. sibirica*, peacock blue, low growing. *Galanthus* (giant Snowdrop) *Elwesi*; *Fritillaria Imperialis* (crown imperial), tall yellow lily-like flowers. *Muscari botryoides* (grape hyacinth), Heavenly blue; *Ornithogalum pyramidale*. *Allium Moly*, yellow, *Allium neopolitanum*, white star of Bethlehem. *Leucojum* (Snow flakes). *Camassia esculenta*, a pretty blue Summer-flowering bulb.

Freesias should be potted at once in loam and leaf-mould, with plenty of sand or grit: forty-eight size pots will hold several bulbs. Place them under a south wall plunged into ashes or cocoanut fibre; keep them just moist, and put them in a cold frame or in a window when they have begun to grow. Put in a few twigs before the flowers appear, to support the stalks, and do not give too

much water. Freesias are the only bulbs that are worth forcing year after year, if they are properly treated. If you have already grown them and have carried out the instructions given in March, you will have some bulbs in pots, ready to plant ; these must be shaken out of their pots and the largest chosen for forcing. The little ones can be planted in a box of earth or out of doors, to grow on for next year.

A good many bulbs may be planted in August, if the soil is in a fit state to work ; any of the Daffodils and certainly Snowdrops and Winter Aconites can be planted this month ; follow the instructions given for planting in September. Snowdrops should be in groups six inches deep, and left for years to increase. As the bulbs are rather an expense bought by the dozen, it is a good plan to buy them from the cottagers, who are often willing to divide their clumps and sell the bulbs cheaply. Watch carefully all the high-growing plants and stake any which need it, before heavy rain or wind can batter them down. Many annuals will have gone to seed, and the seed is quite worth saving if well-developed and ripe. The seed of choice Stocks and Antirrhinums are best bought every year, but seed-collecting is very interesting, especially if you have marked the best blooms, as recommended in July. Any perennials that are not sown in July can be sown this month, and those already in must be kept free from weeds and not allowed to get at all

dry. The flowering season of many things can be prolonged, not only by taking off the seed pods, but in some cases by cutting the plant back to the root ; this is especially the case with Delphiniums ; if this is done early in the month with many annuals which have already flowered, they will bloom again in September ; but in most cases it is best to clear away such things as *Nemophila*, Virginian Stock, and plant some Autumn-flowering things from the reserve garden, such as French Marigolds, late Asters, or Salvias. Things can be bought at the nearest market that will fill up empty spaces and flower the following year, such as Margaret Carnations and Intermediate Stocks. In small gardens where such things as Wallflowers, which were sown in May, cannot be planted out in June and July in a reserve place, they must go into their Winter quarters in August, as other things die off and leave room ; but never plant anything young without first digging the soil well, and if it seems poor, powdery and exhausted, dig in some leaf-mould or loam. If any plant looks ill and the leaves turn yellow, notice if the soil is black and has moss on it ; if so, it is sodden and sour, and must be dug up and drained by putting broken pots or any sort of hard broken rubbish at the bottom, and the soil that is used to fill in mixed with road scraping or sand. Sometimes a plant will look quite well until just coming into flower, and then die suddenly ; this is usually

caused by an insect at the root, as in the case of Canterbury Bells mentioned in June; slugs live below the surface and must be trapped with cabbage leaves.

Do not forget Chrysanthemums in pots must never be allowed to become dry; if not already done, have each plant tied to a strong stick and a string attached to each one and tied to stakes thrust firmly into the ground at each end, to prevent the pots blowing over. The earliest sorts will have made their buds and these must be thinned, taking out the two outer buds, when three come together; this applies also to outdoor kinds. Many plants make a lot of new growth, which is quite useless, as the cuttings are taken from the small root-growths, which come later; all unnecessary growth only weakens the plant, so should be removed, also the buds which come just above the leaves, far down the main stem.

Weak liquid manure may be given about three times a week and the top shoots kept dusted with tobacco powder. Trap earwigs in pots filled with hay on the top of the support sticks. Keep the shoots tied in or they will get misshapen.

Remember to get some ears of wheat from a corn-field, when the harvest is being carried, as they are so useful to grow in water, in the dark months, as recommended in November.

The Autumn-flowering Crocuses and *Colchicunes* should be planted at the beginning of the month

and will flower in October. They are all given in Barr's bulb catalogue. The *Cochlicums* make rather coarse-looking leaves in Spring, but are well worth growing.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

At least two varieties of cabbage should be sown now; Early Market and Harbinger are two good sorts. Plant out broccoli and sow cauliflower and Brussels sprouts; corn salad sown now will produce salad for the winter. The Tripoli onions can be sown now thickly, if you wish to use young ones for salad. The last turnip to sow this month is either Golden Ball or Orange Jelly, these must be well watered in dry weather; follow instructions given in March for all seeds sown now. If you have no shelter from the afternoon sun and the weather is very hot and dry, a few branches of fir trees, bracken, or any light foliage, may be laid over the seeds, until they are a few inches high. If your lettuce has gone to seed, sow some very thickly in a frame, or in the open ground, and eat the young lettuce when they are two inches high. Endive of the broad-leaved kind should also be sown now and spinach, both Prickly and Perpetual. Keep down the weeds with a hoe, and do not let any of the ground get dry and hard on the surface.

August is a good month to make a strawberry bed. If you can beg runners from someone who grows one of the best flavoured kinds, so much the better ; if not you must buy some, but never get them from anyone who grows for the Market, as the kinds that they favour are usually very tasteless and uninteresting, grown more for size and other reasons, than for flavour, which is the real merit in all fruit. British Queen, Royal Sovereign, Sir Joseph Paxton, are all good and must be chosen with regard to soil. The best soil is rich, moist, sandy loam, but a heavy soil, if well prepared, will do perfectly well. The ground should be trenched and liberally enriched with rotten manure, placed between the top and bottom spit, which means that the trench must be dug out two feet deep, six inches of mould returned, then six inches of manure and the trench filled up with mould. If the ground is very heavy and stiff, let the top four inches be of fine leaf-mould, sand and any soil you have from the loam-heap or old hot-bed. Plant the runners in rows, eighteen inches apart, the rows two feet apart. The weeds must be kept down and the runners pressed down firmly, if disturbed by mice or birds. Of course the runners must not be allowed to flag and get really dry : the great secret of growing strawberries, especially in light soils, is to treat them as firmly as possible when they are planted, and to hand weed (which means do not weed with a hoe)

and not stir the ground. Earth up the earliest celery in dry weather but the roots must be well soaked with water. The outer stems should be well watered before earthing, as it is the inner leaves which one wants to bleach. Do not add much earth at a time, and let none enter the heart. Leeks should have the earth drawn up round them, as the longer the tender white part, the better they are to eat. The new plan of tying paper round the celery plants before earthing up is well worth the trouble; well bleached celery is appreciated, but it will not be good until touched by the first frost.

CHAPTER IX

SEPTEMBER

- “ A baby’s feet, like sea-shells pink,
Might tempt, should heaven see meet,
An angel’s lips to kiss, we think,
A baby’s feet.
- “ Like rose-hued sea-flowers toward the heat
They stretch and spread and wink
Their ten soft buds that part and meet,
A baby’s feet.
- “ No flower-bells that expand and shrink
Gleam half so heavenly sweet
As shine on life’s untrodden brink
A baby’s feet.
- “ A baby’s hands like rose-buds furled,
Whence yet no leaf expands,
Ope if you touch, though close uncurled,
A baby’s hands.
- “ Then fast, as warriors grip their brands
When battle’s bolt is hurled,
Then close clenched hard like tightening bands,
A baby’s hands.
- “ No rose-buds yet by dawn impearled
Match even in loveliest lands,
The sweetest flower in all the world—
A baby’s hands.”

—SWINBURNE.

LAWNS of all sizes are a great joy to children and young people, but where those have not to be considered, and yet cutting the lawns into beds makes too much labour and is not desired, the beauty of the ground is much improved if broken

up by making holes and planting specimen plants which do well standing alone ; rough grass at the side of tennis courts which have been made in a field can be treated in the same way. It is very necessary to prepare the ground early and especially in heavy soils, the holes must be quite two and a half feet deep and three feet across with twelve inches of brick rubbish or dry hard stuff you wish to get rid of ; broken bottles or old empty tins do quite well put at the bottom ; over this place pieces of the turf you took up before digging the hole, grass side down, and a few inches of fine soil sprinkled on the top will make a perfect foundation for the roots of the plants to be spread on ; get the holes made at once and order the plants you wish to have ; but they will not arrive until October and can be planted then. Pampas grass is the plant most usually seen grown in this way. *Gynerium argenteum* and *G. jubatum* are both hardy in the south and west. *Desmodium penduliflorum* is the most delightful shrub-like plant, that flowers in September and has pale purple flowers, and leaves like laburnum ; it dies down in Winter as it is herbaceous. *Euphorbia Wulfenii* is very uncommon-looking, the red stems have at the top tufts of grey-green leaves like a lion's mane, it must have half shade. In light soils it can be increased by cuttings in the Spring. *Phlomis fruticosa*, shrubby Jerusalem Sage, is a splendid thing to put in the grass ; the shape is good and the grey leaves last on all the

Winter and show up the handsome yellow flowers in June and July ; increased from cuttings or seeds. *Philadelphus grandiflorus*, the large flowered, mock Orange, called often Syringa, makes a handsome shrub when it can grow to perfection and have nothing touching it on either side, as is possible when grown as a specimen. The old wood must be cut out every year after it has flowered. *Hamamelis japonica* is a lovely Japanese plant which has its bare stems covered with greenish-yellow flowers in January.

All the *Buddleias* are good, *Buddleia globosa* has round yellow flower-heads ; *Veitchiana* is blue, but the most handsome of all is *Buddleia variabilis magnifica*, which is well worth having. The long drooping flowers are out in June ; it should be cut back after flowering, as all the *Buddleias* are quick growers. Variegated hollies, if kept small by being well pruned in March, make a change and look well in Winter sunshine and grow a good shape ; and in sheltered places, *Magnolia Lennei* is a lovely thing. For covering rough places, grass banks, etc., there is nothing better than small roses pegged down ; the noisettes are useful ; *Rosa multiflora* is a joy to look down upon and so is the Burnet rose ; *Rosa spinosissima*, the Garland rose, which is an Ayrshire, can be used in any way, upright or pegged down, and all the *Wichuriana* are rapid growers ; *Alberic Barbier*, *René André* and *Minnehaha* are among the best ; the double Scotch briars are very dainty and not often seen ; Lemon Pink is one of the rarest. All the out-of-the-common

roses, such as *Rosa macrophylla*, the Apothecary Rose, *Rosa gallica*, *R. damascena*, *R. mundi*, the moss roses, old kind, and *Blanch Moreau* and *Capt. Basroger*, sweet briars and many others, can be got at Smith's Daisy Nursery, Newry, Ireland, and all look well, planted as specimens or hedges, sweet briars especially. The ground must be thoroughly well dug and manured this month to be ready for planting in November.

Most Spring-flowering bulbs except Tulips are best planted in September and early in October. Bulbs should be placed point upwards. There are usually some dried roots to show the part which should rest on the soil. Nearly all bulbs can be grown successfully, in bowls of cocoa-nut fibre mixed with oyster shell; these should be put in directly the bulbs arrive. Collect all the bowls you can spare; most delightful plain brown ones of all sizes can be got from Davies, Market Place, Reading, or from The Thetford Pulp Ware, Norfolk, plain green and blue bowls, which are cheap and light and unbreakable.

Rub to pieces any lumps there may be in the fibre and thoroughly mix the oyster shell with the same, adding sufficient water to moisten well the whole. Place a few pieces of charcoal, about the size of a hazel-nut, at the bottom, partly fill with the mixture, place the bulbs close together but not touching and then fill up to within an inch of the brim; the bulbs should be nearly covered but not rammed tight. When potted,

place the bowls in an airy cellar or dark room, but on no account should they be put into a hot dry cupboard ; they may be placed under a wall and covered with cocoanut fibre, which saves watering in wet weather ; examine about once a week and water if the fibre looks dry on the surface. When the bulbs show one or two inches of top growth above the fibre bring gradually to the light by placing them for about three days on the shady side of a sitting-room, or under the bench in a cool greenhouse ; after this bring them to full light and as much sun as possible. Never let them be dry, water sparingly at first and tip up the bowl occasionally, to see if any water is at the bottom, as they will rot if too wet. Remember the bulbs live on water, that is why the bowls of fibre must have no holes at the bottom. Choose bulbs with short stalks, as they need no support, *Narcissus obvallaris*, Empress and *Campennelli rugulosus* are all very suitable, also the old double Daffodil, *Telamonius plenus*. Roman Hyacinths can be had in flower at Christmas, if the room in which they are kept is warm at night ; or if they are in a heated greenhouse, they will be forced out earlier of course. The easiest to grow are ordinary single Hyacinths and Daffodils ; Tulips require care and must be induced to grow tall by keeping them in a half light for some days, this draws up the flower. Crocus and Scillas are only satisfactory if forced in heat ; as in a room, they

flower so unevenly, a few coming out at a time ; but *Scilla campanulata* does fairly well in a window and very well in a greenhouse, it is uncommon and lasts well. For anyone who has a half wild place in the garden, under trees, a succession of Spring-flowering bulbs can be arranged with great success. This would include several rather uncommon bulbs, not mentioned in the August bulb list ; they are best ordered from Barr for he has all the out-of-the-way bulbs, and as they all increase, no great quantity need be bought. The first to flower will be the Snowdrop, *Galanthus Elwesii* is the best one to order and *Leucojum vernum*, the Spring-flowering Snowflake, can be planted with it, flowering as it does a little after the Snowdrops ; next will come Crocuses planted in large drifts, the yellow will be the first to flower and should be planted among common ferns and will then show up against the brown of the young fronds. Then should come a mass of purple Crocus, fading away into pale grey ones slightly striped, and the Crocus procession should end with the pure white. A very lovely early Spring-flowering Crocus is *C. Tommasinianus*, it increases year by year and looks very lovely planted in grass. The outside is silvery grey, with a deeper mauve tint for a lining and bright orange stigmata. The yellow Crocuses are perhaps the least pretty, but one loves them because they flower first and in the ferns and grass, the sparrows, curiously enough,

leave them alone. Jack Frost's icy fingers do not turn the rims of the purple Crocus white under the protection of trees or shrubs, as they do in the open. The wild Daffodils or Lent Lilies, *Narcissus Pseudo-narcissus* are the next to flower, Dog-tooth Violets, *Erythronium*, of which perhaps *E. Hendersoni* is the best, though the mixed *Dens-canis* variety are very beautiful and much cheaper ; they have the advantage of lovely foliage, as have also the hardy Cyclamens ; *C. Coum* is the easiest to grow. The bulbous fumitory, *Corydalis bulbosa*, is a graceful little plant in white and purple, it flowers in April and *C. Ledebouriana* is out from February till March. The double variety of the white wood Anemone, *A. nemorosa bracteata flore-pleno*, should also be planted ; *Tussilago fragrans* may be planted at the edge of this piece of wild garden, the worst and most sunless place will do quite well enough for this coarse-growing Winter Heliotrope. The Anemones carry on the succession, till we get to the snake's-head *Fritillaria*, which grows wild in the meadows round Oxford. *F. Meleagris* mixed are the best to plant. The commonest kinds of Columbine do well in grass, in the more open part, grown from seed sown in July. All these flower very early, protected by trees or shrubs from wind and night frosts. Primroses, wild Violets, wild Hyacinths and *Scilla nutans* should all be planted in the same place. For later

flowering it is well to plant *Anemone blanda*, *A. apennina*; Woodruff (*Asperula odorata*) may be planted among the bulbs in the shade; Solomon's seal also would do well. The success of your Spring garden will, of course, depend on the amount of trouble you take now.

In Summer Nature throws her arms about and plays all sorts of unexpected, beautiful tricks; but in Spring everything depends on the imagination of the gardener—Nature brings forth what you have yourself put in and does nothing else for you. The aim of the horticulturist for large masses of flowers all one colour and for bulbs to be one height is, I think, a mistaken ambition, especially in small and informal gardens.

Once the bulbs are nearly over and when the tall single cottage tulips, graceful and varied, reminding one of the embroideries of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, are only straight green seed pods and the Parrot tulips bow their heads and lie down to drop their lovely petals on the ground, then comes the time of rest and dulness, difficult to cope with in almost every garden; Spring is dying and the cold winds frighten the approach of Summer. The *Ranunculus* tribe will be up to fill the gap. *R. asiaticus*, of which the Persian is about the best, should be planted in prepared soil, loam and well-decayed stable manure, this should be got ready at once, but the tubers need not be planted until the early

Spring. *R. aconitifolius* is easier to grow and may be planted at once, the country name is "Fair maids of France"; and there is a single form called *R. acris*. Another intermediate flower is the *Trollius*; *T. europaeus* or Globe flower is pale yellow with its moonlight hue like the mimosa, *T. asiaticus* flowers a little later and is smaller and a deep orange. The *Euphorbias* are very good, patient plants for half-wild spots: *E. Lathyrus* (Caper Spurge), *E. pilosa*, *E. amygdaloïdes*, for their yellow Spring flowers, and *E. Cyparissias* for its foliage.

There are two ways of planting bulbs in turf, one is to take up the turf in patches of a few feet, dig the soil if very poor and full of roots, and mix in a little cow dung and sand, place the bulbs about two inches apart, as naturally and unstiffly as possible, then replace the turf. The other way can be practised, if the soil is good; get a thick stick pointed and covered with steel, with a handle like a spade—this is an improved form of dibber; scatter all the bulbs you wish to plant on to the ground and thrust in the dibber wherever a bulb has fallen, have some sand and fine mould in a basket and half fill up the hole so that the bulb rests on sand and is not suspended by the hole being too narrow at the bottom for it to reach the earth. Bulbs planted in this way must have some soil put over them. *Ornithogalum nutans* is very seldom grown, white with broad stripes of green at the back of each petal; it increases with

amazing rapidity, but to plant in grass it is perfect ; it flowers early in the Spring and should be put in some part of the shrubbery where it can remain undisturbed for years, if you have no suitable grass in which to plant it. Grass in which bulbs are planted must be scythed in July when the leaves have died down and again in October, so that the grass is short when they come up in the Spring. Snowdrops will grow with other plants, and often under Ivy, the stalks are longer when they have some way to stretch up to the light. Most bulbs should be only just covered with an inch or so of soil, but May-flowering Tulips and Snowdrops must be planted at least six inches deep. All small bulbs, if planted in beds, can have things planted over them, such as *Limnanthes Douglasii*, a pretty little annual, which flowers in May and sows itself every year ; it can be sown over the bulbs in September. Forget-me-nots look well with bulbs, also *Silene* and double and single *Arabis*. Hyacinths, Tulips, and the better sorts of Daffodils are best planted in groups in the beds ; avoid lines, as they are stiff and ugly and show gaps like a missing tooth if a mouse should eat one of the bulbs ; this is not so noticeable in a group. Hyacinths and Daffodils should be just below the surface of the soil, rather deeper in heavy damp land. *Camassia esculenta* is a lovely thing ; like most bulbs, they deteriorate in light soil, from dryness in the late Spring, so should be given a damp place, if possible ; one seldom

sees them in gardens. It has been suggested that they may have been the original of Shelley's "As fair as the fabulous Asphodel," they are so pale and misty and they do belong to that family. The blue grape or starch Hyacinth is a useful bulb, as it increases in any fairly strong soil, and the large one called Heavenly Blue is worth giving a good place; on a bank, planted in grass, it is perfectly lovely. It makes its leaves in September, so should be planted as soon as it arrives with the bulbs; it forces quite well in a bowl, and each bulb has at least two flower stems; it looks pretty and lasts well in water.

About the fifteenth of the month is a good time to sow a few hardy annuals, such as Love-in-a-Mist, Candytuft, *Limnanthes Douglasii*, Virginian Stock, *Nemophila*, Shirley Poppies, &c. They would live through the Winter and be strong plants to flower earlier than those sown in March. If you care to sow Sweet Peas now, they will be a little earlier than the spring-sown ones if the winter is mild; follow instructions given in February. If you have not already got some of the better kinds of Michaelmas Daisies, Dahlias, Phloxes and early Chrysanthemums, now is the time to see them in bloom at the nearest nursery; mark the names of those you like, and give your order, unless you can beg pieces from friends. Always keep eyes and ears open for new ideas and never trust to your memory.

Iris fætidissima is a British plant, which still

grows wild in many places ; the seed is ripe in the Autumn and can be thrown in any half-wild place, on banks, or in a shrubbery ; the leaves form beautiful tufts of bright green and the seed pods open and display the bright scarlet berries ; in the dull months, at the end of the year, it is one of the Winter treasures, which should be prized, though the flower in summer is ineffective.

In some of the counties of England, which were at one time very marshy, there are delightful little dykes and streams, which often come even into a small garden, and of these every advantage should be taken. Whether the water in your garden be a stream or a pond or a mere ditch with water in it all the year round it can be planted to look interesting all the Spring and Summer. The planting can be done either in September or October, but the ground should be prepared some weeks before you plant. Iris of the German type and *sibirica* and the common wild yellow flag will do well at the edge of the water ; the beautiful and now fashionable *Iris Kæmpferi*, Japanese Iris, should do well in such a position. They can be grown from seed but will not bloom for three years, the bulbs are not very dear. Also any of the Spiræas, which like moisture, *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Richardia africana*, arum lilies, which are quite hardy in a damp place, *Lythrum Salicaria*, purple loose strife, which produces in Summer tall erect spikes of brightly coloured flowers, the Willow herb, *Epilobium*, which

grows wild in many places, and yellow *Mimulus* and *Funkias* are satisfactory plants and do well in damp shade. *Ranunculus Lingua*, a wild flower of the Thames, has handsome yellow flowers from June to September, *Primula japonica splendens* grows with a stem two feet high, crowned with flowers, crimson to white in June—half-shade is what they like, and they would do well planted at the foot of some taller plants, such as the *Bambusa Metaké*; the Italian reed, *Arundo Donax*, likes full sun and grows very tall in Summer. The water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis palustris*), which Tennyson says grows for happy lovers, and Caltha, the large marsh marigold or king cup, both wild English plants, will grow in the water, at the shallow sides; the Day Lilies (*Hemerocallis*), do well in marshy ground and *Gunnera* is a handsome rhubarb-like plant, which grows to an enormous size and covers a large area; it must be covered with straw or bracken in the winter. In the water can be grown any of the hybrid Water Lilies of various colours; though none are prettier than the old white *Nymphaea alba*. They are best planted in full sun, place the roots in a basket of strong soil and bind it round with tarred string, then let it down into the water; do not plant two Water Lilies too close together, as they spread rapidly. Barr, of 13 King Street, Covent Garden, and Slough, has a splendid collection of water-loving plants and much can be learnt from studying his

catalogue. *Sagittaria variabilis fl.-pl.* is a wild plant and the Teasles and Bulrushes can usually be transplanted from some neighbouring stream. Bamboos like water during the Summer, but not in Winter ; it is, therefore, a good plan to plant them on a mound of earth, near the water, so that you are able, with very little trouble, to throw quantities of water over their roots, during the dry weather, and yet their roots can be in fairly dry earth all the Winter. There is a most excellent article on hardy Bamboos, by Lord Redesdale, in Volume I. of Robinson's "Flora and Silva"; he mentions *Bambusa nigra*, the black bamboo and *B. arundinacea*, as being in cultivation in England in 1844, when their hardiness was a great surprise to the Horticultural Society. There are two things that must be remembered, if you wish to grow Bamboos successfully ; first, a background to show them off and provide protection, a clump of hollies being about the best ; frost may be laughed at but wind is deadly ; secondly, manure can hardly be given in too large doses in late Autumn ; it will protect as well as stimulate. The kinds which are most suitable to grow in a rather restricted place, are *Arundinaria nitida*, *Phyllostachys Boryana*, *P. Henonis*. *Bambusa palmata* is a lovely low-growing kind but quickly covers a large space. These Bamboos should be planted in May, but the ground got ready in September, or October. If the space to be planted is

covered with grass, take it up, dig the ground to the depth of two feet, putting in plenty of hard rubbish, if your soil is heavy, and turning the turf in, grass side down, on the top of the rubble ; leave the top quite rough until the Spring.

At the end of September, all the tender plants should be taken up, or covered up for the Winter. Pelargoniums (Geraniums), should be potted in poor soil and left out of doors till the middle of October, when they can be wintered in the house. Heliotropes will live, with some protection, if potted up carefully. *Lobelia cardinalis* and *Salvia patens* should be lifted and put into a box of coal ashes ; and Dahlias stored in boxes in a frost-proof stable or cellar ; they need no soil. *Dielytra spectabilis*, the old-fashioned Bleeding Heart, is almost hardy, and will live through the Winter, if the roots are covered with coal-ashes ; never use wood-ashes for covering half-hardy roots, as they hold the wet, which is so bad for them. Every plant which has a hollow stem is apt to collect the rain in the stems, and when the frost comes the ice will be at its very heart. It is well to steel oneself against too much tidying and leave stems as long as possible, only cutting off the seed pods and burning them. These should never be left on any plant or shrub, unless wanted for ripe seed, as they impoverish the plant. All Dahlia tops, dead leaves, Nasturtiums, Vegetable Marrow plants, in fact, everything that is not a weed, but has to be

taken up, should be thrown on the heap to make leaf-mould, but all weeds must go on the bonfire to be burnt. The stiff stalks of Michaelmas Daisies can be saved, as they make splendid sticks for tying up small flowers.

Ornithogalum pyramidale we have already praised ; it is a most useful and lovely plant ; it is used in Paris for the decoration of the Altars in the month of May, and called "*L'Epée de la Vierge*," because, when put into water in bud, it grows and flowers to the very tip. I cannot think why it is so little grown in England ; it does not flower at Woodlands till early in June and it is best to lift the bulbs every year, though in out-of-the-way places they may stand two years, putting the little ones into the ground into some place where they will not be disturbed, and drying the big bulbs in the sun, and re-planting them in October. As the leaves go off and turn yellow before the flower comes it is best to put them in between some low-growing plant like Silene, forget-me-nots, or small bunches of the pretty grey Cat Mint, *Nepeta macrantha*. The double Violets that were taken up and divided in April ought now to be carefully lifted and put into the frame, which had been prepared as a hot-bed in May to grow melons or cucumbers and allowed to get cool during the Summer. The Violets must be planted close to the glass. The frame is left open till the nights get cold ; once they have been covered up, they should only be really

opened between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.; on other days they should be given air by tipping the lights and sticking a brick under them, but a chill is very bad for them and prevents them flowering.

Do not forget to pick Honesty that has gone to seed and hang it up in a dry place until October. *Helichrysum monstrosum*, the everlasting flowers, should also be picked with long stalks and hung up to dry; in this way the stalks will harden; if the flower fall off, they must be tied on to small bamboo sticks or in small bunches to hang downward. The tall spikes of the *Agapanthus* or Blue African Lily are always admired; they bloom in July and can be transplanted or re-potted in the Spring, but they must have some attention in September if you already have any plants in pots or tubs or can buy some well-established. They are best left out, to get as much rain and dampness as possible, but should be fed with decayed manure and put either under thick shrubs or in a shed, before the frost comes. If you have a frame empty, put a foot of manure from the stables at the bottom, and fill in with sandy soil, and plant firmly some cuttings of *Pentstemon*; they should be cut off from the old plants, wherever there is no flower stem and the leaves stripped off to within two inches of the top. *Calceolaria* cuttings, *amplexicaulis* is the best worth growing for pot cultivation, can also be put in the frame and

cuttings of any hardy thing that were forgotten in July.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

The kitchen garden must have every available space prepared to be filled with cabbage and cauliflower. Endive can be bleached by putting a board over the plants on a dry day. Spinach can be sown at the beginning of the month; any celery that is not already earthed up, should be done at once. A few of the variegated Kale should be taken up, with as much earth as possible and planted in the flower garden; they will make a patch of colour all the winter. Take up some parsley and mint, if you have a frame empty, in which to plant them. Weeds grow very quickly in the Autumn and must be constantly hoed up in the kitchen garden. Continue to plant out strawberry runners, if you did not plant enough in August. The Rhubarb you intend to force may now be taken up and allowed to lie out in the open till the first frost or two. Afterwards, it should be placed in a pit or warm out-house. Lay the stools, or roots with a crown, close together, and cover with mould and manure mixed, and fine enough to go around each stool. Water them well, and if the shed or pit is fairly warm, they

will begin to grow at once. This is, of course, for Rhubarb required during the winter ; early spring Rhubarb is not taken up, but is forced in the same way as Seakale, under pots covered with manure or dead leaves. Beetroot should be very carefully dug up now and stored in sand, in a shed ; if wounded it bleeds. Dig up onions and store them by hanging them up in a dry place. Take up potatoes when the haulm or top is dead, and let them lie on the ground a few hours to dry. Keep the potatoes in sacks, in some dry frost-proof shed or cellar. Mushrooms are not wholesome vegetables, but the wild kind are less harmful (if you are certain they are the true edible sort) than the forced, which are practically grown in unadulterated manure. They are so plentiful in some parts of England and so generally eaten eternally cooked in one or two ways, that an American receipt for cooking them differently may be welcome :

“ Choose large and freshly gathered mushrooms, wash and peel and dry them ; soak them an hour and a half in fine olive oil with salt and pepper ; then place them on the grill and turn them. After cooking, dress them on a platter and sauce them with boiling oil, to which add finely chopped parsley and young onions and a modicum of vinegar. The trouble is trifling and the succulence is extreme.”

If you are at all short of salad, lettuce sown in

a frame, in September, will soon be a few inches high, and what you do not eat can remain in the frame until the Spring and then be planted out. The tops of salsaify are a useful addition to salad this month and during the Winter. Of all the plants in the English kitchen garden, perhaps the herbs are the most neglected, and this accounts a good deal for the tastelessness or rather the wrong taste of much of our food ; for salt, pepper, and strong bought sauces are mixed with the food to give some flavour, these destroy the palate and spoil our taste for natural flavours. Most kitchen gardens can show a herb bed containing mint, thyme and sage, and all cooks use parsley, but this is about all. There are many others which ought to be indispensable in every garden and used in every kitchen. Basil and Summer savoury and purslane are annuals and should be grown from seed sown in March. Basil gives such a delicious flavour, when used in sausages, that those spiced with it and sold in Fetter Lane became quite famous. Savory besides being useful, in a mixture with other herbs, is excellent added to Broad Beans, when you cook them. Purslane has a very distinct taste, and some add the leaves to salad, but the great use for it is to add to stock, by stewing it slightly and then making a thin purée, which gives any vegetable soup a delicious and unusual flavour. Chervil should be added to chopped chives and

tarragon, for those who like the flavour in salad ; when once it is established, it will seed itself all over the garden ; though a biennial, it is rather difficult to get from seed at first, one must persevere sowing it at intervals, through the Summer ; it is very hardy and prettier than parsley for decoration. Chives are small bulbs and the flower is blue and quite attractive. Plant them in the Autumn and the tops will be ready to use in the Spring and the Summer ; they have a slight flavour of onion and are delicious added to other salad or eaten between bread and butter, as a sandwich. Tarragon is a perennial and the growth is rather like the Michaelmas Daisy (*Aster acris*) : it can be grown from seed or division ; it is very strong and must be used carefully ; it is the correct herb for using in Sauce Tartare. Fennel is rather too coarse to be used ; but the Italian Fennel, or *Finocchino*, has a stem like celery and the part just above the root is eaten in Italy, either raw, boiled or fried ; the growth of the wild fennel, *Foeniculum vulgare*, is very beautiful and a great surprise in late December and early January, when its feathery foliage appears. Sage is easy to increase from cuttings. Thyme is less easy and best grown from seed, though, like sage, it is a perennial ; the lemon thyme has the yellow leaves and is more hardy than the other, but both resent moving in the Autumn. Winter Savory will grow from slips or seed ; it is very useful to mix with thyme, mint and other herbs, to flavour soup

or stews, and to chop up and incorporate with any of the delicious nut or egg mixtures, to be found in all good vegetarian cookery books. Burnet is a perennial and grows all through the early Winter. The young leaves have the flavour of cucumber, which is a great improvement to salads all the year. Borage, when once sown, will look after itself, the leaves are used in claret-cup and the flowers are beloved by the bees. Coriander is grown for the flavour of the seeds, which are used by confectioners to coat with sugar ; it can also be used with and is a great improvement to curry. How many people grow their own carraway seeds I wonder ? In cakes or bread most people like the flavour. It is a biennial, so must be sown every year in May or June. The right herbs to use for clear soups are Lemon Thymes, Chervil, Chives, and Summery Savory, made into a bunch and thrown into the soup fifteen minutes before it has finished cooking. For soups such as lentil and pea, mint and marjoram should be chopped up and added, also parsley and very little basil. Herbs should be gathered on a fine, dry day ; just when they are at their best, in bud is a good time. Keep each kind separate, and, with a label tied to the bunch, put each in a paper bag and hang up in a warm dry place ; as soon as they are dry, powder them and put them into bottles neatly labelled.

Couch grass, the gardener's enemy, from its

habit of creeping underground in the Spring, makes a most wholesome "*tisane*" for children and rheumatic and gouty people; a handful of the grass, roots and all, must be well washed and thrown into a pint of boiling water and boiled for ten minutes, and then strained. Black Currant leaves treated in the same way are equally good for clearing the blood in Autumn.

CHAPTER X

OCTOBER

“Now Autumn, Summer’s death, itself is dying,
Tracking its fellow’s trackless feet ; the sound
Of rain-winds sobs ; those flags, at half mast flying,
Of crimsoned leaves, have shivered to the ground.

“To greyer shadows the grey lights are shifting,
The sodden flowers from sodden stems bend down,
White foam upon dull leaven waves is drifting,
Beyond the darkening roofs of the sea town.

“How is it with us ? Like a broken sentence,
Blistered with tears, our lives’ two records fall.
The laggard passion of love’s late repentance
Comes when we call not—comes not when we call.”

— UNA ARTEBELDE TAYLOR.

TULIPS should be planted before the end of this month, the early sorts are best planted two inches under the soil among other plants or they can be potted up for growing indoors. The Darwins and Cottage Tulips flower in May and must be planted six or eight inches deep in groups rather at the back of the beds as they grow very tall ; Spanish Iris and English Iris may be planted any time from now till January. They

make very little foliage and look well among other plants. Chrysanthemums in pots can be brought into the house or given some slight protection such as a porch, loggia or veranda. They are quite hardy, but frost will injure the flowers when they are in bud. All plants in bud are helped by a little stimulating liquid manure or some artificial manure such as Clay's fertiliser, but such help should only be given to healthy growing plants ; never overfeed the sick. Chrysanthemums are often eaten by earwigs ; these can be trapped by putting little flower-pots full of hay on the top of the support sticks and shaking them out every day. The bed in the reserve garden in which you have sown the seeds should not be disturbed until the Spring as many seeds lie dormant all the Winter, but those plants which are up can be planted out, leaving more room for those that are left.

All the biennials should be in their place this month. Plant big groups of Wallflowers near the house between tall shrubs or near a wall as they grow high and will need some shelter from high winds if the garden is exposed. Make the hole deep, fill in the fine soil carefully and then ram it in as hard as you can ; firm planting will make all the difference to their growth. Sweet Rockets must be at the back of the beds as they grow very tall. Forget-me-nots, Silene and double and single *Arabis*, all low-growing, and pink and white

Daisies, look well with bulbs planted among them. If you have no seed bed these can all be bought at the nearest market. *Arabis* should be planted in small pieces ; if you have an old plant or can beg one from a neighbour, pull it to pieces and each little tuft will grow if planted firmly and watered if the weather be very dry. It will do well in very poor soil and in front of shrubs or on a wall to hang over as long as it has enough soil in which to make a few roots.

Canterbury Bells should be in bold groups two feet apart and watered in dry mild weather, among shrubs where there is space enough. Pansies and Violas must be planted very firmly and given plenty of room.

All the perennials in the seed bed are best left until the Spring, but *Gaillardias* and *Coreopsis*, which both grow about 3 feet high, may be planted in the beds ; Polyanthus and Primroses look best in big groups in half shade ; they both like very good soil and plenty of moisture. Now is the time to divide the Violas cut down in July and plant them in the reserve garden where they can remain until April ; if this is too much trouble they can be planted at once where they are to flower at the front of a bed or in rose beds, keeping the colours together in groups.

For those who appreciate sweet-scented flowers the Daphnes are indispensable. The old cottage *D. Mesereum* is the best known ; it grows into a neat

shrub and flowers in the Winter, the red berries coming on in June and giving an odd Christmas look among the other flowers. If saved from the birds and sown directly they are ripe you will soon have a stock of young plants ; there is also a white variety. *Daphne Cneorum*, a low-growing creeping kind, is a little difficult to grow and requires peat, but, allowed to have its own pet weeds growing up among it, will thrive well, but it hates to be tidy and lonely.

Lilies of the Valley are easily grown. You buy, or, better still, get plants from a neighbour or friend and plant them in October in a well-prepared bed, moist situation if possible, and some shade, though the east sun does not hurt them. They should be pressed in very firmly, as strawberries are planted ; even rolling them does them good. If the bed is an old one fork them up and divide every piece and plant back the flowering crowns, which ought to be about the size of a lead pencil. A top-dressing of very well-rotted manure, or leaf-mould mixed with mortar rubbish, spread over the bed in February does them good. They are well worth any trouble and in dry soils should be well watered just before flowering.

In October if you have any of the old-fashioned white Pinks or the so-called Mrs. Sinkins they should be pulled to pieces and each piece thrust into the ground where they are wanted to bloom either as single plants at the edge of a path

or in rows as the edging of some particular bed.

Roses are a very big subject, and those who are really interested in them should get Rose books and study them. I daresay there are many newer books, but two I know that are very good are "A Book about Roses," by Reynolds Hole, and "Roses for English Gardens," by Miss Gertrude Jekyll. The latter has beautiful photographic illustrations and deals more especially with the revival of old-fashioned roses and all the rambling strong-growing kinds, roses that are essentially picturesque growers, rather than the fine blooms produced by Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Teas. The great secret with climbing roses in light soils is to prune them early in October and that means boldly cutting out all the branches that have flowered and tying in all the young growths of the Summer. Crimson Rambler, Dorothy Perkins, Lady Gay, etc., are all treated in this way, and heavily top-dressed with strong manure when they begin to grow in Spring. The Austrian Briar roses are very beautiful, and were grown in England in 1596 by John Gerard. The Scotch roses are hardy and easily grown. Sweet Briar, and *Rosa lucida* are invaluable, one for its sweet leaves, the other for its kindly growth and lovely foliage in Autumn. These require only enough pruning to keep them within bounds, but the new growths must never be shortened back; if the bush

becomes too thick old growths may be cut out of the middle. Hybrid Teas do better in light soils than other roses. They require hard pruning down almost to the ground in late Spring. Their second bloom is often better than their first and nothing in the garden is more precious than "The last lone rose of October," which is indeed "dear to the dying year." Captain Christy, Caroline Testout, Duchess of Albany, Grace Darling, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, La France, Mrs. W. J. Grant, Viscountess Folkestone are all good roses though not especially new. Roses that do well on a house in light soils are Gloire de Dijon, Caroline Testout, Rêve d'Or, Mme. Alfred Carrière, Mme. Abel Chatenay, and if the soil is good for roses, nothing is more beautiful than "Lamarque" for the wall of a house.

With a large space to cover Wistaria is a useful plant but I like it better grown on posts as a pergola than on a house. The common Purple *Clematis Jackmanii* comes in well in August. The four *Ceanothuses*, *C. azureus*, *C. Gloire de Versailles*, which flowers late, and *C. dentatus* and *C. rigidus*, which flower in Spring, are useful. No house should be without a *Pyrus japonica*, now known as *Cydonia japonica*. It flowers early if well placed and wants nothing but a little pruning after flowering; the large-flowered white Jessamine is always attractive and *Jasminum nudiflorum* will grow on the north side of a house; the Dutch Honeysuckles are best

grown in the open but in partial shade, up a stick or over the stump of a tree. There is one catalogued, though rarely, as "Early Cream" which I have found most useful grown along a greenhouse wall; it flowers in May. *Lonicera japonica*, the Japanese honeysuckle, which flowers in July, and is very sweet smelling; it only requires thinning in March. Ivy and Virginia creeper and *Ampelopsis Veitchii* should only be grown in pots on houses, but all do well to cover ugly roofs or sheds. The wild Clematis Travellers' Joy is also very useful for the same purpose. For an east wall early-flowering *Clematis montana* does beautifully.

Begonia tubers must be taken up and laid in a warm place till the tops die off and then stored in sand, dry soil or cinders for the Winter. Cannas should be lifted and dropped into boxes and kept in a frost-proof shed till March. Montbretias that are overcrowded must be dug up and sorted over and the best bulbs put away for replanting in January or February.

For people with small gardens who are really enthusiastic about flowers and care for the individual plants more than for the general effect, it is quite worth while to try to grow a few of the lesser known plants which for one reason or another are neglected by the multitude. The *Tropaeolum speciosum* which grows like a weed in certain peaty moist parts of England is most difficult to grow where climate and soil are not all that it requires:

however, it will do very well if only it is given the attention that it needs. The best position for it is the north side of a yew or holly hedge if the ground can be dug out and some good peat or leaf mould dug in. It will also grow on the north wall of a house in front of a Cotoneaster or anything which will give it some support in the Summer. Get some fresh pieces of roots from any one who grows it in March and plant at once ; it is hopeless to get the dried pieces from a bulb merchant. Water them well after planting in March and keep the ground always moist ; put a few sticks to help its first shoots to reach its supporting shrub. The treatment in the Autumn is most important ; the dead part should never be cleared away but the seed pods should be taken off as they weaken the plant.

The non-climbing Clematises are much neglected but they are beautiful things and good to cut for the house. *Clematis recta* is quite hardy and very fragrant ; it grows 5 feet high. *C. maritima* is also herbaceous, that is, it dies down during the Winter. Two climbing kinds are very useful and not often seen : *C. Flammula* flowers in September and *C. paniculata* in October. The two plants have much in common, the latter being the bolder and stronger of the two ; they are both like a glorified edition of Travellers' Joy, *C. Vitalba*. The freshness of their green and the beauty of the creamy white flowers is a great joy in the Autumn when the garden

is full of red, yellow and brown. *Convolvulus mauritanicus* must be grown under some refined shrub that will not choke it but just gives it the protection it needs. The flowers are a lovely shade of blue; it likes a sunny position and a sandy well drained soil. It is grown by cuttings or division, and also looks very well in a hanging basket. Tree Paeonies are such lovely things that if you have a place for them they should be given every chance to succeed; they are best planted in October and they produce flowers in abundance the second or third year, flowering early in May. The common pink one, *P. Moutan*, is the easiest to grow; a good moist loam enriched with cow manure is what they like, they will grow either in full sun or in a very shady place; a hedge or wall on their north and east side is a protection as they make their buds very early in the year. *Paeonia edulis* and *P. officinalis* are herbaceous and beautiful while they last, but room for one group is all that should be spared for them as their flowering time is so short, though the lovely colour of their Autumn foliage makes them useful for two seasons of the year.

One of the most beautiful garden plants is the double white rocket, *Hesperis matronalis*; it is a double form of the Sweet Rocket and is perennial, whereas the single is a biennial; it is one of the few plants which are improved by being double. *Arabis fl.-pl.* is another plant which is quite a different thing from the old single, and so is *Gypso-*

mila fl.-pl. The double rocket must be divided every year, taking off some nice side pieces and discarding the centre, replanting after renewing the soil ; it is the need of this small amount of attention which causes it to die out and is the reason for its rarity.

The common Evening Primrose is such a weed (the definition of a weed is a plant out of place), beautiful as it is, that people fight shy of the whole family of *Oenothera*, but this is a great mistake. *O. Youngii* in a damp soil is one of the most beautiful of yellow flowers and the red stalks show up the blossom in a wonderful way ; the tufts are planted in October and divided every other year ; it can also be grown from seed sown in July.

The *Daturas* (Thorn Apples, Robinson calls them) are very handsome garden plants. They are not hardy, being natives of Mexico, but owing to their rapid growth they can be taken up in Autumn and thrust into a big pot and housed with other things in a frost proof shed and put out the end of May. The best of the species is a double white, with the most delicious scent, especially in the evening ; it is much grown in pots in Italy. We keep it in pots, and flower it outside and in the greenhouse. The single *Datura cornigera* (*Brugmansia Knighti*) we plant out and take up in October or even November, according to the season. Both are best grown as standards.

They want very good feeding when planted out and the growths which come up the stem should be rubbed off. Their propagation is simple, the young shoots being taken off in Spring and struck in a gentle heat, one cutting in a small pot sunk in a hot-bed with light soil and cocoanut fibre. *Datura meteloides* is a handsome plant called Wright's Datura ; it can be grown from seed and is white tinged with mauve and will flourish in a warm corner and flower till frost sets in.

The whole family of *Linarias* are very useful and very little grown. *Linaria dalmatica* is really a handsome plant and bears in Summer a profusion of showy sulphur yellow blossoms ; it likes a warm place in a light soil. *L. triornithophora* is a beautiful thing ; when well grown it is from one to one and a-half feet high and has long spurred purple flowers. Balm of Gilead (*Cedronella triphylla*) is a half bushy herb with a very sweet smell. It usually grows from two and a-half to three feet high ; it is not quite hardy so had better be protected with dried bracken in the Winter and is best planted out against a wall or in a corner in May ; it is easily raised from seed or by cuttings taken in the Autumn. *Schizostylis coccinea* is very seldom seen, it is rather like a small gladiolus and flowers in the most delightful way just when it is most needed in November ; the only disadvantage is that the blooms are apt to be injured by frost but a light protection of fir branches or a piece of light

matting stretched across the bed will protect them, when the weather gets bad they can be picked in bud as soon as they show colour and will flower in water.

We hear much in these days of herbaceous borders, often described in poetical language, and supposed to grow all the flowers of the year in the utmost perfection. People say in a light and airy way that the Christmas rose may be picked in the depth of winter, and the Violet flourishes from November till April. All this is really book gardening or newspaper gardening. There is nothing so difficult as keeping the same borders in perfection during eight or nine months of the year. To obtain that result, the herbaceous border can only be the enlargement of the English cottage garden, which needs nothing but loving care, filling up bare spaces with plants grown from seeds or out of pots, watering plants as they come into bud, thinning out vigorously when necessary, mulching (laying manure or leaf mould round the roots) in dry weather and covering the bare earth with manure for the Winter. Some of the best gardeners I know have been disposed to say in these understanding days that the herbaceous border in the old cottage sense is a mistake and not desirable, for a mere mixture, a mass of many kinds of flowers, is not beautiful; there is no repose, no form, no drawing, no colour even, as

one plant is apt to kill another in more senses than one. I think a feeling is growing among the best gardeners that even in moderate-sized gardens certain portions must be more or less devoted to the growths of different plants flowering at different seasons ; spring-flowering things doing best if they face east or south east, autumn-flowering plants doing well facing north or north-west, some plants doing best at all seasons in full sun and others in shade or half shade. Every one must make up their own minds how they will treat herbaceous plants: If you intend to have small separate gardens for each of the eight months one may expect to have a show of one sort or another of outdoor flowers. Any of Miss Jekyll's books will be a great help, especially "Garden Colour." All we can do is to advise in a general way as to the management of borders treated in the mixed cottage way.

In March the principal flowers will be the bulbs planted in September. The Crown Imperials make a handsome show growing, though they do not flower until April. White Arabis, Pansies, and a few Primroses are about all we can expect in the way of flowers.

In April the *Anemone fulgens* and *A. St. Brigid* will be coming on and more bulbs of the larger sorts, Daffodils, Hyacinths, then Tulips and Pheasant-eyed Narcissus, Forget-me-nots, Silene,

Doronicum caucasicum, *Alyssum*, *Aubrietias*, and the blue wind-flower, *Anemone apennina*, and *Hepaticas* for those who can grow them. *Valeriana Phu* is a white variety of Valerian, and the yellow leaves are as pretty as flowers. Many of these are best not grown in the border, but for the first year everything one can get must be put there, and experience will show what does best elsewhere.

The single and double Pyrethrums are very beautiful. They will not move later than August, so you had better leave plenty of ground for two groups, and move them in March when they are beginning to grow. Get them from some place near so that they can be planted at once, otherwise they must be grown from seed sown in July, and will not flower much the next year.

For May, plant good groups of Oriental Poppies, and next to these the white German Iris. Leave a space for later things and have another May group of *Asphodelus creticus*, yellow, and the blue flag Iris, and further on a patch of Lupins, blue and white, and a planting of the *Centaurea dealbata*. For low-growing plants in front London Pride will make a show and *Limnanthes Douglasii* will be in flower if sown in September. The *Verbascum phænicium* flowers in May and is about 1½ feet high, a very handsome uncommon plant, of mixed colours, which likes warm dry soil.

The late Cottage Tulip and the Scillas,

campanulata and *nutans*, will fill up some gaps. For June the Delphiniums must be at the back or centre according to where the tall things look best. *Spiraea Aruncus* will look well near the blue. A big group of both white and blue *Campanula persicifolia*, *Trollius europaeus*, Globe Flower, pale yellow, *T. dauricus*, the tall one, *T. asiaticus*, deep orange, should be given a damp place. *Ranunculus aconitifolius* (Fairmaids of France) white and *R. acris* (Bachelors' Buttons), yellow, both like a rich loam soil.

The East Lothian Stocks must be planted quite early in October if not before ; it is best if possible to plant them where they can stay when they are thinned out of their seed bed in July, but this can very seldom be done. They are beautiful things and smell very sweet ; a little dry bracken woven among them will help them to withstand hard frost.

All the Pink tribe are most useful ; they have to be divided in October, so groups can be planted now. *Dianthus plumarius* has many varieties, the old white is the sweetest and one with a dark rim is old-fashioned and beautiful. Mrs. Sinkins is well known and Her Majesty is even better. Where they can be planted in half shade and renewed from time to time with fresh seedlings the Columbines are very beautiful ; *Aquilegia caerulea hybrida* has long spurs and the colours are very

varied. Columbines very much dislike being moved and if you did not sow them in July and have to buy them mind the plants are only seedlings.

Anthericum Liliastrum, or St. Bruno's Lily, is a very pretty white flower about two feet high ; there is a smaller one, *A. Liliago*, St. Bernard's Lily. Remember while you are planting that all flowers look so much better in groups, and let four or five plants of a kind be planted together.

Red Valerian should be in a very poor place as good soil means foliage and little flower. *Veratrum nigrum* is a very handsome and uncommon plant ; the foliage is crinkled like a palm leaf and it throws up long spikes of very dark claret coloured flowers, in damp good soil they flower every year but are shy bloomers on poor soils. The herbaceous *Veronicas* are blue, pink and white. *V. spicata* is about 1½ feet high ; *V. virginica* is taller and has a pale grey flower. *Dictamnus Fraxinella*, white and red mauve, should be in every garden ; it can be planted in October but if you can get the seed in August it should be sown then.

There are several big Daisies, like the field Ox-eye Daisy, and they are all Chrysanthemums ; there is an early one called *C. maximum præcox* which flowers in June. The white French Willow weed, *Epilobium*, grown through the best of the blue crane's bills, *Geranium grandiflorum*, makes a

lovely permanent bed, or a large patch can be allotted to them in the herbaceous border.

Some of the most beautiful of the June flowers are the day Lilies, *Hemerocallis flava*; they last in bloom for some time though the individual flowers are over in a day; if well fed, a dry soil will suit them, the foliage is pretty and reed-like; *H. fulva flore-pleno* double Day Lily, flowers later and the colour is much darker, rather an uncommon shade of apricot.

Monarda didyma, Bee Palm, is a red flower with a curious scent; it is quite easy to grow in a fairly strong soil.

Melissa officinalis, or Common Balm, has very sweetly scented leaves, and there is a pretty variegated variety, but this does not smell so sweetly.

The yellow Tree Lupin is like a small shrub, and grows 3 feet high; there is a white kind as well; they grow easily from seed. The blue one is more rare. The little Turk's Cap Lilies flower in June, *Lilium Martagon* and *L. Hansoni* flower well on a dry soil. *L. Hansoni* is Japanese, *L. davuricum* is not tall and has red flowers, *L. Thunbergianum* is also short. All the German Irises are fairly easy to grow; those with mixed colours flower in June; the English Iris are white, blue, light and dark, and make comparatively little foliage, as do also the Spanish; both these are

bulbous and should be planted in December or January. *Erigeron speciosus* is a handsome mauve flower like a Michaelmas Daisy. *Polemonium caeruleum*, Jacob's Ladder, is a lovely shade of blue, and has pretty fern-like leaves, which lie rather flat on the ground ; it is only 1½ feet high. Almost the finest of the blue flowers is *Anchusa italicica* ; the Dropmore variety is the best, and Opal is a new one, with a lovely pink shade shot with blue.

Alstroemeria, Peruvian Lily, is a lovely thing, but must be planted at once after being lifted with some soil to do really well, so unless you can get some in your neighbourhood you had better grow it from seed. The best plan is to sow it out of doors in August, as soon as the seed is ripe, close to a south wall in full sun ; they are worth any trouble. *A. chilensis* is the best ; *A. aurantiaca* is the easiest to grow. Hollyhocks are quite easy to propagate from seed ; they flower the first year if sown out of doors in the Autumn or in February in heat ; the single kinds are all beautiful ; they are mixed colours, and quite 6 feet tall, and less subject to disease than the double. *Bocconia cordata*, Plume Poppy, is not a showy flower, but has very handsome leaves with a bronze lining.

All the *Oenotheras* are good, and many of them are open all day ; the tall common one, *O. biennis*, need only be planted once, as it sows itself after

being once established ; it is best planted facing north or east, as it then opens early in the afternoon. It can be allowed to increase in the reserve garden and moved into place in July. *Œ. missouriensis*, *Œ. Youngii*, and *Œ. Lamarckiana* are three low-growing kinds ; all these are yellow. *Œ. speciosa* is white, also *Œ. taraxacifolia*.

Incarvillea Delavayi is a very handsome trumpet-shaped flower in a beautiful shade of pink mauve, only 2 feet high as a rule, best grown from seed. *Inula glandulosa grandiflora* has orange flowers ; it is called the Japanese Sunflower. *I. macrocephala* flowers on into August. The beautiful white Mallow (*Malva moschata alba*) is two feet high, and flowers well in the shade ; *Platycodon Mariesi* is another good plant for the front of a border, as it is not tall. Some of the Phloxes begin to flower in July, and if they are to be grown in the beds should have specially good soil and the ground well manured ; half shade is best for them, but if your ground is at all poor and dry, and you are not prepared to water them, they would be much better left in the shade in the reserve garden and moved into the flower borders in July ; this applies equally to Michaelmas Daisies and early Chrysanthemums. The tall white Daisy, *Pyrethrum uliginosum*, should be planted in single pieces some inches apart and replanted every year ; it is well worth this little trouble and is quite a different plant when well

grown ; if not attended to every Autumn it becomes poor in growth. *Chrysanthemum maximum* is a grand Ox-eyed Daisy, and King Edward VII is a very handsome variety. It flowers continually all the Summer, so can be relied on for July and August. Chicory flowers in July, and is a most beautiful blue, quite different from any other. *Catananche* is useful, as the flowers last well in water.

Echinops Ritro, Globe Thistle, and *Eryngium Oliverianum* are both tall growing blue thistle-like flowers ; the latter is called Sea Holly, *E. dichotomum*, is a fairy-like edition of the larger one. They will grow in poor soil but dislike being over-crowded ; they all last in the house without water and mix well with the silvery white of Honesty. Many people do not know that the outer skin of the seed pods of Honesty have to be removed when they are dry for the lovely silvery part to show ; each pod must be carefully taken between the finger and thumb and given a slight slide when they will come off quite smoothly. *Geranium armenum*, 3 feet high, makes a splendid patch of colour, and *G. sanguineum*, a dwarf pink one, is useful.

August is not at all an easy month and you must depend a good deal on plants from the reserve garden and on what is left from July. Hollyhocks will flower still and some of the June things if kept cut down will send up shoots of fresh

blossom. There are a few good things which it is worth while to plant for their beauty this month. On heavy soils *Campanula pyramidalis*, both blue and white, will flower then, and if you have plenty of room *Buphthalmum speciosum* is very showy. Dahlias will take up a good deal of room, so a place must be left for them ; plant a good group of *Helenium Bigelovii*, which is a daisy-like flower with a dark centre, and *H. pumilum magnificum*, with a yellow centre. *Helianthus multiflorus anemonæflorus* is the earliest of the perennial sunflowers. *H. multiflorus maximus* and *H. lætiflorus* (Miss Mellish) flower in September. *Kniphofias* are usually called Tritomas or red hot pokers ; they grow into very large plants and need strong soil. *K. Macowani* is a miniature of *K. caulescens*, the one usually grown and does best on light soils. *Thalictrum glaucum* has creamy yellow flowers and fern-like foliage. *Sidalcea candida* is white and delicate looking like a miniature hollyhock. *Scabiosa caucasica* is a lovely thing 2 feet high and a tender grey blue, splendid for cutting ; it must be grown from seed. Other less known early Autumn flowers are the Mulleins, *Verbascum Chaixi* and *V. longifolium*. Gladiolus bulbs can be planted in March round other plants as they take up very little room. *Rudbeckia hirta* is yellow, 2 feet high. *Echinacea purpurea* is a sort of purplish crimson. *Anemone japonica* should be planted in very large groups as it must

not be disturbed. The Michaelmas Daisies require a good deal of knowledge before they are introduced into a border. It is safe to plant *Aster acris*, not tall and a good mauve colour, *A. Amellus* rich purple, 2 feet high; *A. ericoides* small white flowers quite late in October, *A. cordifolius*, also late, 4 feet high. *A. horizontalis* has a pinkish look, as the centre of each flower is pink and only the outside petals are white; *A. gloriosa* is a lovely low growing sort with flowers in many shades of purple. All these are safe not to overgrow every other plant but some of the older kinds have such a coarse growth that it is quite unsafe to trust them in a bed.

Beds of herbaceous plants already established must be attended to in October or November, the earlier the better, as things have a chance of rooting before the frost comes; each plant must receive individual attention. It is a great mistake to shear off such plants as Funkias, *Heucheras*, *Phloxes*, and Michaelmas Daisies, as the old plant is then left in the old exhausted soil. Dig up the whole plant, divide it by cutting it with a cold chisel, dig the piece of ground you took the plant from, put in fresh soil and replant the pieces firmly, watering them well; this applies to plants which grow in solid clumps. The double Spring daisies can be pulled to pieces, this can be done now, but ought to have been done in April. Primroses and Polyanthus can be divided in April, the heads or

shoots showing which will make plants for next year, but they can be moved into their flowering place now. Things with a long straight root like a carrot, called a tap root, must only be replanted if they look ill and badly nourished ; take off any side shoots and start them under a bell glass with plenty of sand in the soil, choose a shady spot, water every few days. A cold chisel is a wedge shaped piece of iron eight or nine inches long and an inch or more broad with a sharp end and a flat surface at the other for striking with a hammer. Keep your reserve bed always in mind, early Hardy Chrysanthemums will be over by the end of October and can be planted there ; if you have an empty frame put a few plants in that in case of a severe Winter. Michaelmas Daisies and Phloxes should also be planted in the reserve garden as they must be ready to be moved into their flowering places in July. It must never be forgotten that however small the garden, successful gardening means a continuance of bloom. It is comparatively easy to have a beautiful garden in Spring or Summer or Autumn, but to have flowers from March to November is not so easy, and yet this should be the eternal ambition, and what is worth growing at all is worth growing well, even if only a wayside weed.

Colour blindness or a neglect of colours, not considering what will do well together, is a common defect in gardening. Magenta and shades that

have a mauve tinge of red should be avoided. Phloxes and Snapdragons are among the worst offenders and when in bloom should be plucked up by the root and thrown on the bonfire. Too much white is a mistake; a good deal of grey foliage is a great help in a bed full of mixed flowers, as it keeps the glaring colours apart. Seakale is very handsome grown as an ornamental plant and there is a grey-leaved *Centaurea* called *Clementei* which looks well. *Cineraria maritima* is only hardy in the South of England, but cuttings can be kept in a frame for the Winter and planted out in May. *Santolina incana*, or Lavender cotton, smells sweet and has pretty hoary grey foliage like lichen. If you have a large deep border a group of Yuccas will look well all the year round, and when they flower they are the glory of any garden. *Y. gloriosa*, *Y. recurva*, and *Y. filamentosa* are all beautiful. *Caryopteris Mastacanthus*, seldom catalogued, but sold by Barr, is a neat grey-leaved small shrub which flowers in September. *Artemisia Stelleriana* is white leaved and likes a shady spot.

If your borders are too wide to be attended to comfortably it is a good plan to sink red bricks in a line to form little paths at intervals across the beds or the same little paths can be used to form small stiff beds if some place for spring and summer bedding plants is wanted near the house.

If cannas, begonias, fuchsias and other half-

hardy plants were not taken up in September, they must be put at once under shelter, the begonia tubers stored in cinders like dahlias, and the cannas left with earth on their roots and stored in a dark frost-proof shed or dry cellar.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

This is the month when the female grub goes up the bark of the apple tree to lay her eggs, and greased bands made of brown paper covered with cart grease must be tied round the stem of each apple tree. Some people use hay bands, these must be renewed occasionally and the old ones burnt.

Towards the end of October, the Spring cabbage sown in August must be planted out one and a half feet apart in rich soil. A few rows can be planted only one foot apart and these used first. Earth up celery in dry weather.

Transplant August-sown lettuce and sow some in boxes if you have a greenhouse so as to have a supply of young salad. Keep the spinach sown last month well weeded. Raspberry canes and currant bushes can be planted this month. Strawberry beds should be top dressed with manure on strong soils. On light soils this forces them too much and they flower too early. See directions in April.

The main crop of potatoes should be dug up and stored this month ; when they are sorted keep the little ones which are usually given to the pigs, and put them away in tin boxes and bury over a foot deep, marking the place where they are put. These will keep perfectly until Christmas, or later, and are a pleasant surprise in the Winter, as they have the taste and appearance of new potatoes.

Wherever you have room plant nut trees, both filbert and hazel. In early Spring the Catkins are most decorative, and should be shaken to fertilise the pretty little red flowers. Nuts are always welcome in Autumn, and the trees themselves form a good shelter and quickly grow into a firm tall hedge.

CHAPTER XI

NOVEMBER

“What is the world to me? Can it
Give back those years too dearly
Prized too quickly fled?
Their memory chokes my voice and
Blinds my eyes with tears.
Can it give back the Dead?
What is the world to me?”

THIS is the important month for the planting of all kinds of shrubs, trees, fruit trees, great and small Roses, Jasmines, Wistarias, etc. Of course planting can be well begun in October and finished in the early part of December; after that it is better to wait till February and March. Everything must depend on soil and situation and the amount of space there is to be planted. In older places generally the first thing to do is to thin out, and get rid of Laurels and coarser shrubs. So few people take off suckers, which are the shoots that spring up round plants either on their own roots or

from the stock on which the plants are grafted, or attend to their shrubberies, but care must be taken not to remove what protects a garden from sun or wind. The smaller the place the more important is it to choose unusual and refined shrubs, which will flower not all at once but in succession. For those who take gardening seriously, and who have a certain amount of space, I can most conscientiously recommend two books. The first, "Trees and Shrubs for English Gardens," by E. T. Cook published by George Newnes, is most thorough and comprehensive; the other, simpler and more restricted in lists, is "Calendar of Flowering Trees and Shrubs," by Henry Hoare, published by Richard Flint. The catalogues of T. Smith, of Daisy Hill Nursery, Newry, Ireland, James Smith & Sons and Darley Dale Nurseries, Matlock, Derbyshire, will be found very useful and more reasonable than those of some of the South Country nurserymen.

Gardens which have more or less to take care of themselves are best planted with a selection of the choicest flowering shrubs, especially round the house, instead of with herbaceous plants, annuals, or what are called bedding-out plants. In this way a refined appearance is obtained and hand-weeding is made easy. *Choisya ternata* is a beautiful and most useful shrub. *Azara microphylla*, is a graceful small leaved evergreen shrub which grows rather tall; it has tiny yellow flowers in March, smelling strongly of Vanilla, reminding one of the chocolate

shops on the Paris Boulevards ; it grows easily from cuttings in summer.

Cytisus præcox, the early Spring cream-coloured Broom, is a most satisfactory plant ; as it makes no seed it must be increased from cuttings after flowering ; the white Broom comes into flower a little later. All Brooms are best sown every year as they quickly get old-looking and shabby, they must be moved very small from the seed-bed and planted where they are to remain. Buying Brooms from a nurseryman is useless, unless they are in pots, as they nearly always die. *Prunus sinensis* fl.-pl. *rosea* and *alba*, are both lovely little shrubs. *Kalmia latifolia* and Azaleas can hardly be done without, but they must have peat and a good deal of shade. Lavender, Rosemary, and that precious old-fashioned plant called "Old Man" or Southern Wood (*Artemisia*) may well be added.

Up the house where there is room a *Magnolia grandiflora* always looks well, on the east or north side a *Clematis montana*. Roses if they are liked do well on the south or west side ; if there is plenty of room a Wistaria is a satisfactory climber which age never injures. *Solanum jasminoides* is a delicate climber hardy in the south counties, so is *S. lanceolatum* with its pretty blue-grey flowers. *Pernettya mucronata* is a charming little shrub with coloured berries ; it should be pruned rather hard after flowering, cutting back anything except the flowering branches, but it requires

shade and damp so is not suitable for near the house, except on the north side. Myrtle if planted in a warm corner and covered up the first winter will be a joy if it succeeds.

Some people will live for years in a garden which, though the flower beds are well filled and satisfactory, has dreadful shrubberies full of every sort of undesirable rubbish. If these masses of Laurels, Privet and evergreens of different sorts form any kind of necessary shelter they must not be completely done away with, but all the lower things can be taken out, "grubbed up" as gardeners say, which means hacked up by the roots with a mattock. All old wood should be taken out and the soil well dug ; if there are large spaces to fill, a few shrubs and plants may be put in.

Gaultheria Shallon is quite low growing and likes peat or leaf-mould, *Berberis Aquifolium*, *Cotoneaster microphylla*, *Daphne Laureola* and *D. pontica* may all be planted as they do not object to shade and *Vincas* (Periwinkles), and *Hypericums* (St. John's Worts) can be used in front to carpet the ground. *Scilla nutans* and *S. campanulata* and Snowdrops would all do well among such plants and need never be disturbed. If you can take the whole lot of rubbish away there are many beautiful things that can be planted or if the space would look too bare take out a few of the worst of the shrubs and replace them with something more interesting. If a shrub gives you no pleasure either in its leaf-time

or when the colours change or the foliage drops and the stems only can be seen it is not worth keeping.

The following list is of deciduous shrubs (which are those that lose their leaves in Autumn), *Prunus triloba* and *P. japonica*, *Robinia*, Rose Acacia, *Lonicera Standishii*. Of deciduous trees *Amygdalus communis* (Pink Almond), *A. Davidiana alba* (the Chinese Almond) a very pretty early kind, *Prunus Pissardii* which has dark purple leaves, *P. triloba*, *P. serrulata* (the double pale pink cherry from Japan), *Crataegus* (Thorns), double rose and scarlet, and the single scarlet. The scarlet fruited thorn is especially beautiful in Autumn, the fruit remaining long after the leaves are off, *Pyrus floribunda* is covered in Spring with masses of pink and white flowers. *Salix vitellina aurea* (the Golden Willow) looks lovely in Winter with its yellow branches. If evergreen shrubs are wanted the *Berberis* family cannot be surpassed. *B. Darwinii*, *B. stenophylla*, *B. Hookeri*, *B. japonica* and *B. fascicularis*. *Kalmia latifolia* with shiny leaves and pink flowers, likes peat and damp, so do Rhododendrons. *Yucca recurva* often flowers, not once in a hundred years as some people seem to imagine, but nearly every year especially in hot summers ; all these will grow in any fairly good soil and do not require any special attention. Some people take their shrubs as they find them planted by the builder. The monotony of Privet

and the common Euonymus and Laurels with occasional clumps of variegated Elder and yellow *Aucuba* which one sees in the suburbs of London would lead a foreigner to suppose these were the only shrubs that would grow in England. All shrubs which flower in Winter and early Spring should have rotten manure put at their roots this month, to help them to form their flower buds.

When I first began gardening a list of trees and shrubs was given me by a friend which was of great use to me when I first began to read catalogues. I put the lists into my first "Pot Pourri from a Surrey Garden," but I may as well repeat it here.

Trees for Autumn leaves and berries, Siberian Crab, Sea Buckthorn, Golden Elder, Red Hazel, Purple Filbert, Hawthorns of all kinds, Maples (various), Hornbeam.

Creepers and shrubs that look well in Autumn *Azara microphylla*, *Berberis Thunbergi*, Clematises of sorts, but especially the very late flowering *C. paniculata*, which is in full bloom in mid-October. *Cydonia japonica*, Dogwood, *Desmodium penduliflorum*, *Eccremocarpus scaber*, easily grown but often killed in Winter. *Colutea* (Bladder Senna) will grow from seed, *Escallonia macrantha*, *Euonymus europaeus* and *E. latifolius* not always hardy, *Genista*, healthy, five or six hardy kinds, *Hibiscus*, (double and single), *Hydrangea paniculata*, *Indigofera*, Jasflne, *Laurustinus*, Lavender, *Leycesteria*

formosa, *Mahonia* (the common *Berberis*), *Olearia Haastii*, *Pernettyas*, *Lithospermum*, *Pyracantha*, *Prunus Pissardii*, *Rhus laciiniata*, *Rosa rugosa*, the Japanese wild Rose (the white is the prettiest, the pink makes a very quick growing hedge if kept well clipped), Rosemary, *Rubus* (brambles), *Skimmia*, *Spartium junceum*, best from seed, Tamarisk, the one that flowers in May is the prettiest, Vines of sorts, especially the claret leaved one.

Then my friend added a list of plants that flower late in the year, *Achillea Ptarmica fl.-pl.*, *Aconitum* (Monkshood) a good blue. *Anemone japonica* is most useful, three shades, but must be planted in a place with some shade and *not* disturbed. Asters, Michaelmas Daisies of sorts, *Ageratum*, *Antirrhinum*, *Armeria cæspitosa* (Sea Pink), Bergamot. Fuchsias, Funkias of sorts, the September flowering one, *F. grandiflora*, with pure white flowers, is far the best, can be grown in a pot or in a bed, likes lots of water at the flowering time, *Gaillardia* (seed), *Gladioli* of sorts, bulbs planted in Spring, *Gypsophila paniculata*, and its double variety which is perhaps the best, *Harpalium rigidum*, *Helenium*, *Helianthuses* of sorts, perennial and annual from seed. Hollyhocks from seed, and in light soils they must be the single ones, the others get so diseased. *Hyacinthus candidans*, a bulb that will grow anywhere ; it lasts longer in flower in shade. *Hypericums* of sorts, *Ipomæa*, *Convolvulus*, *Lathyrus* (Sweet Pea) and the perennial kinds, *L. latifolius*

and *L. grandiflorus*, both valuable in gardens. *Lilium tigrinum*, Orange Lilies, useful to grow. *Linaria*, *Linum*, both from seeds, *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Lunaria* (Honesty), pretty in spring with its Lilac flower and useful for Winter decoration with its white seed pods, *Matthiola*, Stocks of sorts, both of these from seeds, *Phytolacca decandra*, Virginian poke, a handsome hardy perennial plant, but wants too much room for an ordinary garden. *Plumbago capensis*, a lovely low-growing perennial with dark blue flowers and red leaves in Autumn. *Polygonums* of sorts, useful plants but they must be carefully watched as they throw up so many suckers if left alone. Poppies of sorts. *Pyrethrum uliginosum*, *Reseda*, Mignonette, *Calendula*, Marigold, easily grown from seed, *Callistephus* (China Aster), *Campanulas* of sorts, many of them are worth growing and all come from seed easily, Rose Campion (seed), *Centaurea*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Colchicum*, called Autumn crocuses, bulbs planted in August, very pretty but make such big leaves in the Spring that they take up much room. *Coreopsis lanceolata* (seed), *Dianthus sinensis* and *Hedgewigi* (Indian-pink) (seed), *Erigeron*, *Eryngiums* of sorts (seed). *Daphne Cneorum* and *Mezereum*.

We have given this list as many people do not go to their gardens till late in the Summer and for them the instructions for planting herbaceous borders, given in October, would be useless.

There are several plants and shrubs that can be

planted in Spring though in dry soils ; I think Autumn planting is the safest. Every one knows the common spotted Aucuba, but it is astonishing how seldom one sees the beautiful female plant or a variety which has very handsome shiny dark green leaves, and if planted near the male plant it has brilliant red berries in early Spring, an ornament to any garden at a bare time of the year.

All the shrubby Spiræas are well worth growing ; they vary much in size and growth and must be selected from a catalogue. *S. Thunbergii* is a compact elegant little shrub, flowering very early in the year before the light foliage appears ; they can be planted at almost any time of the year. Lilacs are now called *Syringas*, and what used to be called *Syringa* or Mock Orange, is now called *Philadelphus coronarius* ; the common sweet one is rather a weedy grower and should be well thinned out after flowering, cutting out all the long branches that have flowered, this makes them tidier and flower better next year. *P. grandiflorus* flowers later and is best in half shade. *Syringas* (lilacs) should be grown on their own roots from cuttings and all suckers removed every Autumn. Common Lilac and the variety Charles the Tenth and the common white, and one called Marie Legraye, are the best ; the double white can, I think, only be grown in heavy soils but not on its own root. Where it succeeds it is very beautiful.

Rhododendrons and *Azaleas* only do well in

light soils which can be mixed with peat (they hate chalk).

An herbaceous plant, which means a plant that is perennial but which dies down in the Autumn, called *Polygonum cuspidatum*, is generally shunned by gardeners as in a border or shrubbery it is a terrible weed, but grown in a hole in the grass it is a most handsome useful plant ; it requires no care, no manure, only an hour's attention in April when the suckers must be pulled off and only about a dozen shoots allowed to grow, when it forms a beautiful sub-tropical looking plant in six weeks. When well established it reaches eight or nine feet, its growth is graceful and any soil suits it and it will grow in town gardens and the red stems look well through the Winter and can be left on the plant till February.

The large wheelbarrow is often rather heavy, and it is useful to have a lighter cart in which to carry small things. One can easily be made from an old sugar box sixteen inches wide and twenty inches deep, set on a pair of old perambulator wheels, and two handles must be fixed half way down the box, and a piece of wood nailed on at the front with a small wheel from a penny bazaar to keep it off the ground makes it run more easily, and if the whole is given a coat of paint it is quite a nice little vehicle.

If you wish to have window boxes, these should be prepared in the Winter ; well-drained boxes

made to fit the outside of the window are the best thing you can have—they must be made of well-seasoned wood otherwise they will warp. Do not nail Virginian cork on the front as this harbours insects and is very ugly; if the front is well finished off and varnished or painted dark green the plants will be a sufficient decoration. If you wish to grow plants which will remain permanently the boxes can be planted at once with *Lysimachia nummularia* (Creeping Jenny), *Zapania nodiflora* (Creeping Vervain), *Campanula muralis*, *Saxifraga hypnoides*, etc., for the front; and Daffodils or Hyacinths for the back. Wallflowers do fairly well and Forget-me-nots and *Saxifraga umbrosa* (London Pride) is a splendid plant for a window box. Small evergreens such as *Cryptomeria japonica*, Box or the silver-leaved *Euonymus* look well for the Winter, and in Summer Fuchsias, white and purple, Petunias, Margaret Daisies or Heliotrope can be substituted, leaving the front trailing plants as they are and filling any gaps with *Lobelia ramosa tenuior*; these last would be planted at the end of May. A good plan for protecting half-tender plants against a wall is to put long pea-sticks in the ground sloping towards the wall and push dry bracken or straw between the sticks and the wall.

If you have collected your wheat as recommended in August you tie it in little bundles and cut the stalks about two inches long; these are put into

flower vases the water just reaching to the ears. Place them in a dark cupboard till they begin to sprout, and then stand them in a sunny window and the effect is very pretty. Another way is to rub out the grains and sow them in a plate or shallow dish, filled with wet moss. It is important to pack the moss very tight so as to have the surface even and to wet it thoroughly before sowing the seeds, which must be very thickly sown; these can be covered with paper for a few days or put in a cupboard as stated before. Canary seed grown in the same way is even prettier as the lower part of the growth is pink and the tops a very bright green.

Another experiment is very interesting. You take six grains of wheat, barley, or oats, and plant them a foot apart in a prepared bed and a slight trench drawing up the earth round the plant as it grows and the result is simply astonishing. An account of this kind of growing is given in a very interesting book of Prince Kropotkin's called "Field, Factories, and Workshops." In Chapter IV he gives an account of how wheat or barley planted in this way and having full room for what is called "tillering" (*tallage* in French) would produce ten, fifteen, twenty-five, and even up to ninety and one hundred ears as the case may be; and as each ear would contain from sixty to 120 grains, crops of 500 to 2,500 grains or more could be obtained from each, separately planted seed. I have tried

this at Woodlands and the result is amazing even on this light unsatisfactory Bagshot sand.

Instructive as are all the chapters on agriculture, the last chapter on the subject is the most interesting to me. He gives accounts of the possibilities of agriculture in various European countries which read rather like the old fairy-tale of Jack-and-the-Beanstalk, or of the gourds in the Old Testament. He tells of the extension of market gardening and fruit growing in France, Belgium and the United States, culture under glass, kitchen gardens under glass, and hot-house culture ; the accounts he gives of the cultivation of vegetables in the north of France are surprising. In a quite small commune near Cherbourg £2,800 are made out of 180 acres of market-garden, three crops being taken every year. I add a little poem on the use and abuse of corn, comical though true.

A VOICE FROM THE CORN

I was made to be eaten and not to be drank,
To be husked in a barn, not soaked in a tank,
I come as a blessing when put in a mill,
As a blight and a curse when run through a still.
Make me up into loaves and your children are fed,
But made into drink I will starve them instead.
In bread I'm the servant, the eater shall rule ;
In drink I'm the master, the drinker a fool.
Then remember my warning : My strength I'll employ,
If eaten to strengthen : if drunk, to destroy.

There is nothing which shows the true gardening spirit so much as getting over difficulties. Many

people tell you that for some reason or another they cannot have a garden though there may be a fair-sized piece of ground round their house. Of all the difficulties to contend with, wind is one of the worst, but even a wind-swept garden is not hopeless. One of the most successful gardens in a very trying position I ever saw was literally on the sea front with no trees or cliffs or shrubs to afford any shelter whatever, yet the flowers flourished in a most wonderful way, for fresh air and sunshine is of course the best of all helps if the plants can stay in the ground, which these would not have done had there been no kindly aid from the master of the garden as the wind swept with such power over the level stretch of land that the plants would have been blown up by the roots. This was the arrangement. In the middle of the plot a round bank was thrown up enclosing a space large enough for a good sized rose bed and on the top of the bank common sheep hurdles were stuck and climbing roses planted against them. All round the garden was a bed for herbaceous plants and at equal distances hurdles were placed to form beds like stalls in a stable. The hurdles were not at all unsightly and served as support for climbing plants; through not being quite solid they broke the wind far better than a wall, which causes the cold air to draw down on to the plants below in the same way as a large closed window makes a draught in a big building.

My friend the late Mr. George Wilson, owner of the garden now belonging to the Royal Horticultural Society, taught me how to make a wire cage like a hen-coop and cover it with green scrim. This makes a most excellent shelter for Christmas roses and afterwards Anemones, or any spring seedlings, and is much less expensive than glass. I mention this now as things of this sort can be made during the dark winter months though the shelters will be most useful in the spring. Maple, of Tottenham Court Road, has brought out some little shelters called Patent Cloches ; Whiteley sells them.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

The largest of the broad-leaved endives sown in August and September should now be taken up with a good ball of earth and put in a box in a dark dry shed to bleach ; if left out of doors they will rot when covered up. Do not let them get dry at the roots, but on the other hand avoid watering more than is necessary. These bleached endives will make delicious salad. Salsafy or Vegetable Oyster, *Tragopogon porrifolius*, which was recommended to be sown in April is dug up in November and stored ; it has a long fleshy taproot which, when nicely cooked with a white sauce or fried in light batter with tomato sauce, makes a change as a Winter vegetable. Salsafies certainly have a taste which

recalls the oyster if not over-cooked, and this impression can be increased by cutting them into small rounds and soaking them in lemon juice and serving them with a white sauce like scalloped oysters, in shells, with breadcrumbs on the top, cooked in the oven and allowed to turn brown. Salsafies will be ready to eat in November, and should be stored in sand like carrots if your soil is very damp.

Nothing is more precious in a garden than what is called small fruit, gooseberries and raspberries and currants. Once you have a few of the best kinds of red, white, and black they are very easily increased by cuttings, like the commoner roses. Pieces of the branches cut cleanly across and stuck in the ground this month will bear in two years ; it is very essential to do this every year in light soils, as they soon get old and bear less well ; when this is the case, if the plants are healthy they can be dug up and the big tap-root they often have can be cut away and the fibrous roots spread out and planted again in fresh soil.

Red and white currants and gooseberries should all be grown as low standards on a stem nearly a foot high to keep the fruit off the ground, and they do well on a wall or against a wooden paling, and the fruit is then less devoured by birds than out in the open. Black currants should be grown as bushes, not removing the suckers, only cutting out the old wood every year. Red and white currants

fruit on the old wood, and should only be shortened back, like apple trees. In light soils the raspberry is the most difficult to grow ; they are of the family of roses and like a stiff moist soil, so if possible they should have clay mixed with the soil and will stand like roses, mulching with manure twice in the year, in Winter and Spring.

Blackberries are graceful in growth and bear very useful fruit. The American Bramble, though pretty in leaf and a strong and rapid grower, has not such a good flavour as the native kind. It is very convenient in these days, when blackberries are picked by every one who wishes to turn an honest penny during the Autumn, to be independent of those growing wild by planting them within easy reach on your own ground. They only need slight pruning in late Autumn, the wood which has borne fruit being cut away. Remember, if you make jam, that the first most delicious flavour goes off somewhat, so it does not do to try and keep it many months. All medium-sized gardens should have some fruit-trees planted in them, both for the beauty of the blossom and the usefulness of the fruit. Nothing looks more beautiful than fruit trees growing in grass, but, alas ! a large circle must be cleared round each tree, as extensive experiments which have been made during some past years have resulted in the general understanding that grass over their roots is most injurious to all fruit trees, and more especially

to young ones. Pears take many years to grow to maturity and bear much fruit, but are worth planting if the garden is your own or you have it on a long lease. Apples are the most useful of all fruit, and nothing is more lovely than the blossom. Cherries require good soil, but they are so beautiful in flower that if there is room they should be planted ; the birds eat them so systematically that one cannot hope to get a large share of the fruit unless they are planted against a wall and covered with netting in July ; the best cooking cherry, Morella, does well against a north or east wall. Morella Cherries and Raspberries mixed make the most delicious jam in the world. Plums of all kinds are fairly easy to grow and bear fruit very young. All stone fruit should have mortar rubbish dug in before planting, as they need lime to make their stones ; this can also be added to older trees. Peaches are best grown on a south wall. Quinces are not much grown, and for some reason always made into jam or jelly, but stewed they are more luscious than pears, and if cooked very slowly, or, better still, skinned and baked in the oven, have the most rich colour ; the trees bear well in a few years. Medlars are lovely in flower, and some people like the fruit, which should be gathered after the first frost and ripened in a shed. It is useless to give a list of named sorts of fruit trees, as every county has a characteristic of its own and the local soil and climate must be considered.

Consult a fruit grower in the neighbourhood and in ordering think of flavour before all else. Remember that the best eating apple makes the best cooking apple, the large tasteless kinds grown for size have often no flavour at all when cooked. The artificial manures mentioned in February can be dug in now if you intend to use them. If you wish to make an Asparagus bed it should be prepared now for planting in the Spring. Dig into it all the strongest manure you can get and if your ground is heavy have the bed higher than the level of the ground ; the size will of course depend on the amount of space you can spare. If you are not quite sure that you cannot live without growing your own Asparagus, it is hardly worth the trouble and the large piece of ground it will require. It is a treacherous vegetable, disagreeing widely with many people, who put down the Spring attacks of gout in one form or another which result from eating it to the weather, unless they have been told the real cause and even then they often prefer not to believe it is injurious, because it is such a delicious vegetable. There is not much that can be done in a small vegetable garden in November except to continue to plant out Lettuce, Endive, and early Spring Cabbage ; dig up Beetroot and store it in sand in a shed. The corn salad sown in August should be big enough to use now. Chicory should now be taken up and put in boxes of soil in a cool dark place.

This will grow very quickly and give plenty to cut from either for salad or to cook like Seakale, only a little water will be needed ; some people put the roots in pots and cover each with another pot a size smaller so that light is excluded. Have every available space dug and manured as the seeds will have to be sown early in the Spring and the ground should be left rough in lumps for the frost to penetrate, and in February all can be raked over and will be ready for seed beds. There is no greater mistake than to leave the ground undug until the Spring as is done in so many cottage and allotment gardens. In digging turn in the weeds, as they will nourish the ground.

CHAPTER XII

DECEMBER

"Let the shadow advance upon the dial ; I can watch it with equanimity while it is there to be watched. It is only when the shadow is not there, when the clouds of winter cover it, that the dial is terrible."—RICHARD JEFFERIES.

OF late years we have had no snow, or at any rate not before April. This is a great loss to gardens, snow keeps the roots warm and softens the icy fingers of Jack Frost, but when it does come, let us think of the Chinese proverb, that says, "Sweep away the snow from thine own door, and heed not the frost on thy neighbour's tiles," advice which with a little imagination can be applied in many ways.

The work in December depends on the weather. In most years the ground is quite workable on any but the most sticky clay or chalk soils, but, if early hard frost hardens the ground, the only out-of-door work that can be done is wheeling manure over the hard ground and putting it in heaps ready to dig in, when the weather breaks, as soil is

at its best for digging when the thaw comes. If the ground can be dug in December, making a rock garden is splendid Winter work and it is quite a mistake to imagine the undertaking to be expensive. Any woman who knows how to use a spade can do all the work, except moving the big stones, provided she takes her time over it. Choose a piece of ground, away from trees, where there is nothing very precious planted and decide how large a space you can spare. Start digging a path if possible two feet wide, throwing up the earth on either side; it must be thrown well over, otherwise it will keep falling back in a most irritating way. The path should run from east to west, as some plants like a north and some a south aspect. The path should get deeper as it gets towards the middle of the space allotted to the rock garden and may wander about in every direction, if it be large enough; in a small space, keep it all very simple but let the path bend to one side a little. The soil thrown up from the path will not be enough to form the sides; more soil will have to be brought from somewhere else. What the plants need is a good root run, you must get away from the old idea, of a heap of stones, with a sprinkle of earth between them, which used to be the way of making a rock garden, and always ended in being a plant cemetery. If you are fortunate enough to live near a stone quarry, there will be no difficulty about getting suitable

stones fairly cheap, and it is always best to use the local stone, unless it is chalk, over which many of the plants refuse to grow. A local gravestone mason will sometimes supply pieces of stone left over from monuments, and may have some which have been lying about in a yard and are covered with moss; if not, watering with liquid manure will soon give them a good colour. Large lumps of builder's cement mixed and covered with shingle or gravel make a good substitute for stones, when they are difficult to get; they are much better than roots of trees, or old bricks which absorb the moisture; burnt bricks and clinkers, beloved of gardeners and builders, are very ugly and should never be used. The earth which is thrown up must be left rough and uneven and holes scooped out to form pockets. If your soil is clay or heavy firm loam, you will need only to place the stones at the side and front of each pocket, but in gravel or sand the stones must be cemented together with the Portland cement you can buy in powder at the oil merchant's, in which case the pocket should be scooped out and the stones stand up round it like a wall to retain all the moisture there is, and catch the rain. Some pockets should have the front stone laid flat and only slightly slanted inwards for the plant to grow over. At the top of the earth mounds, which must be flattened a little, you may grow low shrubs, such as the best

of the hardy Veronicas, *Traversii* and *salicifolia*, Rock Cistus, *Pernettyas*, Tree Lupins yellow and white, *Caryopteris*, *Iberis* and some of the smaller Rhododendrons, such as *Chamaecistus*, *ferrugineum* or *hirsutum* which will need peat. Four or five of the hardy heaths such as *Erica mediterranea*, *E. ciliaris*, *E. cinerea* have many shades of colour; *E. herbacea*, *E. vulgaris*, the wild kind; *E. carnea*, a very early bloomer, can be added in Spring, the rest can be planted in December, if the weather is mild, but the Alpines are best left until March, if you intend to have choice kinds; the hardy plants which do well in a rock garden can be planted now, and they will make some show the first year and can be weeded out, gradually, as you improve your collection. *Alyssum saxatile* is yellow and very dwarf with grey-green leaves, double white *Arabis* has a flower like a tiny stock and likes to hang over the edge of wall or rock; *Veronica repens* is blue and has a prostrate growth of tiny leaves. Thrift has a nice pincushion of green, with flowers of white or pink. All the little pinks: *Dianthus cæsius*, *D. petræus*, *D. deltoides*, *D. fragrans*, *D. superbus* can be used and grown from seed; *Helianthemums*, called rock roses, are beautiful plants, with flowers like tiny dog roses in white, pink, red and yellow; these must be grown from seed. *Cerastium* (Snow in Summer), a quick-growing thing with tiny grey leaves, London Pride, *Saxifraga umbrosa*, has already been praised, it will

grow literally anywhere and only needs occasionally replanting. All the common *Saxifraga* can be moved now; *S. aizoides* has a yellow flower and likes a moist place; *S. aizoon* grows in tufts and has silvery leaves, *S. Andrewsi* is as easy to grow as London Pride; *S. cordifolia* increases very quickly and covers a large space. *S. granulata fl.-pl.* is a double white, splendid for picking, it grows from a small bulb, hence the name. Some of the *Sedums* are equally useful and quite easy to grow. *S. spurium* is low growing and has a crimson flower. *S. kamtschaticum* is orange coloured and a strong grower, Stonecrop is the popular name for *S. acre*, in some parts of Surrey called "Welcome-home-Husband-be-he-ever-so-drunk." *S. rupestre* is a native plant, with yellow flowers, it likes to run over stones. The *Hypericums*, St John's Worts, are useful plants, *H. calycinum*, Rose of Sharon, is well known, with its shining yellow flowers, with their bright tassel in the centre of each. *H. olympicum*, grows a foot high and has large flowers, *H. Elodes* is a native plant and does well in a shrubbery, rather a rank grower for a rock garden; *H. nummularium* and *humifusum* are trailers. *H. ægyptiacum* and *H. empetrifolium* are dwarf and well suited for the purpose. Another big group of plants excellent for the larger rougher parts of the rock garden are the giant *Saxifraga* of the *Megasea* type; *S. Stracheyi*, *S. crassifolia*, *S. cordifolia*, *S. purpurascens* are all good. *S. peltata* must

have a damp place to flower well. All have handsome leaves, and pink flowers early in the year, they like full sun and can all be moved in December.

A dear little shrub with pretty evergreen fern-like foliage, is *Comptonia asplenifolia*, the sweet fern bush, delightful for mixing with cut flowers. Its own flower is insignificant, it is hardy and grows from cuttings, the foliage has the appearance of being shot with yellow ; it is quite extraordinary how seldom this attractive little shrub is seen in gardens ; and there is another, equally useful and suitable for the rock garden, called *Caryopteris Mastacanthus* ; this has grey leaves and such lovely blue flowers in late summer ; it grows about two feet high and can be kept a neat size, by cutting back in October, it is very easily increased from cuttings, this is not mentioned in any of the best known shrub books, but Barr keeps it. *Berberis Hookerii* is one of the smallest of the barberry family and likes a dry place, so the top of the rock garden is very suitable, *Polygonum Bistorta*, snake weed, is quite hardy and will do well, if it can get some moisture, it has pretty rose coloured flowers in the autumn and the leaves turn a lovely colour. For a very dry position, facing south, *Gypsophila repens* will endure drought ; *Santolina*, which smells so sweet, can be kept small by cutting back, and the never to be forgotten *Nepeta*

(Cat Mint), of which one can hardly have too much, is easy to increase by division.

Having got your stones in position and planted some of the above-mentioned plants, you must have patience and wait to complete your planting in March. The stones will take some time to settle, and after heavy rain you will soon see if you have made any mistake in the construction of the rock garden ; the steep part of the path is best formed into steps ; if you cannot spare flat stones for these, it is a good plan to cover them with the Portland cement and sprinkle sand on it when wet to improve the colour.

Everyone with an observant eye must have noticed how pretty is the growth of a newly planted *Ampelopsis Veitchii* and how deadly monotonous and uninteresting it becomes when it is growing vigorously. It is quite possible to have an old plant, which covers the wall as beautiful as a young one, it is merely a matter of starving it at the roots. If your soil is good and there is a suitable place for an *Ampelopsis* to grow, get a young plant and put it in a seakale pot, or any pot equally large and stand it by the wall ; do not put the lid at the bottom, as recommended in the case of other plants, as the roots will want to grow through. Dig some stones or mortar rubbish into the ground where the pot is to stand, unless it is a gravel path ; if the place is paved, break a small

piece of the stone away from under the pot to allow some small root run. Stand the pot close against the wall and lean a stick against it at first, but the plant will soon be strong enough to climb by itself. Of course it must be kept watered ; but though healthy and strong, it will retain the beauty and grace of its baby growth. The whole subject of root room is very interesting. One broad rule can be remembered, that good soil and moisture mean strong growth but little flower, and starving and severe pruning leads to the plant trying to flower before it is full grown and often dying in the effort. From this we learn that when a plant is young and is required to grow tall and strong, it should be given plenty of root room and not cut back, but if required to flower, the roots should be kept back, either by cutting round the plant with a spade, or in the case of pot plants, allowing the plant to stay in a pot, which looks too small for it. The same thing applies to leaves, which should turn colour in the Autumn ; a berberis at the edge of a gravel path will be a brilliant colour in the Autumn, while one of the same sort, planted in a bed of good soil, will grow twice the size but remain green. Bulbs grown in a rose bed which is liberally manured will be all leaves and no flowers ; but, on the other hand, if starved in a very poor soil they will spend their lives making small bulbs and not flower at all. There has to be a medium in everything, and experience is after all

the only satisfactory teacher. *Agapanthus*, the so-called blue African Lily, will seldom bloom well until it has been several years in the same pot. The beautiful creeper *Bignonia radicans* is often too liberally treated, and though it grows to a great size, refuses to flower ; this year I saw a young one, two years old, in full flower, in a pot out of doors. Zonal Pelargoniums which are required to bloom in pots should remain in a small forty-eight, as long as possible ; when they look starved and lose their leaves it is time to pot them on.

In gardens where there are gravel paths, they often become dirty-looking and covered with moss though not bad enough to need to be re-gravelled. Weed-killer sprinkled on the moss in dry weather will clear the moss and all weeds away, but it is well during the winter to have the gravel picked with a small pickaxe and raked over and well rolled, keeping the path rather high in the middle. If the water lies in one place and there is no proper drain, one should be made and a grating fixed ; if not, the soil near it will become sour. Grass paths should be kept swept and rolled every week, except in wet weather. Sometimes planting of shrubs and roses is delayed and it has to be done in December. If plants arrive during a frost, they should be left in their straw and wrapping in a shed ; if the frost continues, they must be unpacked and the roots covered with damp soil and then the straw and wrapping laid over them,

the idea being to keep the roots from frost or from becoming dried and shrivelling ; the tops will not hurt if the roots are protected. If you have any Violets in the open, either double or single, that are in bud, the frost will probably prevent them from flowering, but dug up with a good ball of earth and put in a pot ; they will flower in a window if you do not burn gas. The same applies to Primroses which often come into bloom in December, but are spoilt directly the frost comes.

Tussilago Farfara is called the winter flowering Heliotrope, and flowers now ; the smell is very sweet, and the bloom lasts in water ; small pieces that are not in bloom can be transplanted now, and put in out of the way places, among ferns or wherever it can be allowed to grow and wander far, as it increases very rapidly ; it is one of those plants which one forgets at any other time of year, as it is quite dull when not in flower, but it is a real treasure in mid-winter.

An artistic-looking bird table is quite a pretty addition to a garden in winter, and feeding the birds keeps them from getting into the habit of attacking buds and blossoms, which have no food value, but are often pecked at and injured by hungry birds with idle beaks. A long fir pole is the principal thing needed ; have this firmly planted in the ground, with a round platform nailed to it about half way up ; the top of an apple barrel with a hole made in the middle and the pole

passed through it, secured in place by a few wooden supports, will answer the purpose ; further up the pole fasten a cross bar, from which to hang cocoanuts, and at the top some twigs should be woven to form a cage to hold the lumps of suet that birds love ; threaded strings of monkey-nuts should be hung from the cross bars, and breadcrumbs, seed, and a pan of water should rest on the platform.

Chrysanthemums must be prepared for propagation directly they have finished flowering ; as soon as the flower is faded, cut down the stem to the root and put the pots in a cold frame or some light place free from frost ; water with weak liquid manure to encourage the growth of suckers at the root, as from these we must select our cuttings.

This year we are trying the potato onion, which is planted on the shortest day of the year and taken up on the longest, Sutton says in his excellent book, "The Culture of Vegetables and Flowers," "The potato onion is not much grown in this country, in consequence of the occasional losses of the crop in severe winters." It requires a rich, deep soil and to be planted in rows twelve inches apart, the bulbs nine inches apart in the rows ; it is best to let the bulbs rise to the light, even by the removal of the earth, so as to form a basin round each, taking care, of course, not to lay bare the roots in so doing. When the planted bulbs have put forth a good head of leaves, they form clusters of bulbs around them, and the best growth is made in full

daylight, the bulbs setting on and not in the soil.

Every space in the kitchen garden that is free should be well manured and dug in preparation for the spring sowing of vegetable seeds ; any fresh ground that is to be taken into cultivation should be turned over at the depth of eighteen inches, letting the grass and weeds be buried in, as they will manure the ground ; leave the surface quite rough for the frost to penetrate. Sow mustard and cress in boxes in a frame, or even in the house, it will grow quite fast in a warm room.

CHAPTER XIII

GREENHOUSE

“Who loves a garden, loves a greenhouse too,
Unconscious of a less propitious clime,
There blooms exotic beauty, warm and snug,
While the winds whistle and the snows descend.
The spiry Myrtle with unwithering leaf
Shines there and flourishes. The Golden Boast
Of Portugal and Western India there,
The ruddier Orange and the paler Lime,
Peep through their polish'd foliage at the storm,
And seem to smile at what they need not fear.
The Amomum there with intermingling flowers
And cherries hangs her twigs. Geranium boasts
Her crimson honours, and the spangled Bean,
Ficoides, glitters bright the winter long.
All plants, of every leaf that can endure
The winter's frown if screen'd from its shrewd bite,
Live there and prosper.”

—COWPER.

I CAN find nothing in verse or prose that so well describes one's feelings, on entering a well-filled greenhouse next a room on a cold winter's day. It is so true, the plants “seem to smile on what they need not fear,” and one goes back to one's writing or reading refreshed by the warm smell of a greenhouse. What Cowper calls “Ficoides,”

must, I think, mean one of the nearly hardy *Mesembryanthemums*, the seed vessels of which look like young green figs. All the *Mesembryanthemums* are nearly hardy, and are easy to grow and look well on a high shelf and hanging from their pots; they come from South Africa, but flourish and are quite hardy in the Scilly Islands.

As a greenhouse is not essential to a garden, we have not put the little we want to say for those who have one into the monthly chapters. The interest of a greenhouse entirely depends on its having as much variety, the whole year round, as the garden has during the nine months of flower. For those who have no glass, many of the plants can be grown successfully in the sunny window of a warm sitting room, where gas is not used, and thick curtains drawn behind the plants at night; the plants also require turning round occasionally to prevent them from growing one-sided in their effort to reach the light, and must be carefully watered and syringed with tepid water, during the winter, to keep the leaves clean. Many people stand their tender ferns and foliage plants out of doors on wet days in the winter; this is a great mistake and gives the plants a chill. All greenhouse plants are better for standing out of doors during June, July, and August, but must never be neglected. A frame without lights (glass) made of turf and described elsewhere, is a good place to stand them, as wind on the damp pots is very bad.

for all plants. If the greenhouse is in a conspicuous position, it need not be empty, for as well as the permanent plants in the ground, potted half-hardy annuals, such as Petunias, Musk, Lobelia, Verbenas, and various bulbs, named later on, will make a good show. In order to grow successfully all the plants we are going to name, an even temperature of forty-five to sixty degrees of heat must be maintained, but many of them which we mention as nearly hardy will grow, flourish, and flower in a house where only an oil stove is lit at night, and the temperature is as low as forty and never above fifty. Rippingille's oil stoves, which can be bought at the Stores, for heating a small house are called "Albion," and cost 25s. or 46s. according to size. Great care must be taken about airing the house in the middle of the day; the disadvantage of little heat is that it is not safe to syringe, and this is such a help in keeping down green fly. A little lamp for fumigating a greenhouse is sold by the XL Company, and is called the "All Vaporising Fumigator," and can be bought at seed shops. The weather must always be taken into consideration. Very damp air, or worst of all, fog, must never be let into a cold house. If in the middle of the day the house has a temperature of forty to forty-five degrees, open the windows for a short time, even if it is raining, and on fine bright days the windows may be opened from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in mid-winter, with no heat

on in the house ; in frosty weather keep a temperature of forty-five degrees to fifty degrees all day.

Be careful about watering your pot-plants, especially in dull weather, and some of the thick leaved plants, such as *Cacti* and *Echeverias* are best kept dry all the autumn and given very little water even when flowering ; never use hard water. There should be a tank for soft water in every greenhouse, into which should run the rain-water from the roof. This will always be nearer the temperature of the house than outside water. One soon learns when a plant is too dry, by tapping the pot ; the drier the soil, the more empty will the pot sound and the note is higher. No greenhouse will be satisfactory if the glass leaks in any way, as damp will be fatal to your plants.

In arranging your greenhouse, put all the flowers of one kind and colour together, whether they number two or ten, never dot them about ; also, in winter, it is well to have the plants which require little or no watering at one end.

To have a greenhouse looking trim and full of vigorous growing plants, it is absolutely necessary to have a frost-proof frame or room, into which to put those plants which have finished flowering. Plants which are shedding leaves and blossoms not only take up a great deal of room, but soon give a place a degraded appearance, like seeing behind the scenes in a play.

Amateurs find a great difficulty in knowing

when plants require to be repotted. This can only be learnt by experience, as many things only flower when the pots are full of roots, this is called being pot-bound and tends to make a plant flower. But if you wish it to grow big and make good foliage, repot it any time from March to September; when the soil looks black and moss grows on the top, it should be stirred and some sand mixed with it; if there are worm casts on the top, turn out the plant and try and find the worm; pots should always be stood on a board, bricks or cinders, to prevent insects getting into the pots. Only real water-loving plants should stand in a saucer of water, this would kill many things.

If your greenhouse can be arranged to have a bed against the wall, creepers will do very well, planted in it; if not, your Nepheta Rose, without which no greenhouse is perfect, must be planted in the ground outside, and brought in through a hole and trained over the roof. A blue Passion flower inside would be good, if you do not live far enough south to grow it on your house; a Heliotrope should also be against the wall and, if there is room, a *Solanum jasminoides*, the white *Solanum*, with a flower like a potato flower, which covers the cottages in Cornwall and Somerset, may be added. *Camellias* have been long out of favour, but they are really very beautiful growing and quite easy to manage, they do best planted in a bed but can be grown in big pots, *C. alba plena* is

the old double white variety, *Chandleri elegans* is light rose mottled with white, *Mathotiana* is bright red ; the most lovely of all is the single white, the plants can often be bought cheap at sales at country houses. If in pots, they should be stood out of doors in full sun, all the summer and disbudded in September ; if there is more than one bud on each shoot, carefully nip out the side buds, only water about once a fortnight in winter and put peat on top of the soil, if possible water them with a little liquid manure in May and June. They are hardy and would live out of doors all the winter, but the spring frosts prevent them flowering well, except in the south-west.

Many hardy plants do very satisfactorily in pots, and, especially in towns, take the place of more tender ferns for rooms and passages. Among these there is nothing prettier than well-grown specimens trained up a thick straight wire of our small-leaved common Ivy, to be found in the hedges, this should be potted up in April and stood under a shady wall, the pot sunk in the ground and well watered. If the pot is brought into the house in autumn, a little pruning before putting it out of doors in spring is all the attention it requires. Ivy in pots is much grown in Brussels for room decoration. Well grown specimens of *Aspidistras*, Robinson calls it "garden palm," especially the variegated kind, respond to care, but in summer they must have a saucerful of water to stand in like Spiræas and

Arum lilies ; *Ficus elasticus* and the Indian variety called *Indica*, which has smaller leaves and more branching growth though rather more difficult to grow, also survive satisfactorily, if not too much watered in winter and the leaves are sponged ; the slightest yellow spot on the lower leaves is an indication that they are over-watered.

All the half-hardy Cacti do well especially in windows, and want next to no water in winter. *Phyllocactus alba superbissimus* is white and grows into a large plant, *Phyllocactus Persdorffii* is yellow and very sweet scented, *Cereus speciosissimus* is bright scarlet and *C. epiphyllum* is a small pink one.

Some of the Aloes are curious and pretty, *A. variegata* is often seen in cottage windows. What are usually called Aloes are often really Agaves and come from South America, but Aloes come from South Africa. *Echeveria retusa* has a pink flower and a lovely grey leaf, *E. secunda glauca* is also good, and *Cotyledon metallica* has the most lovely metallic shades on its leaves.

Saxifraga pyramidalis is a delightful plant to play with, it is perfectly hardy and responds to the following treatment. The first year, plant it out in a good border. When the young rosettes appear round the parent plant, as they soon do, take them off and stick them firmly into the ground, they will soon make root ; water them, if the weather is very dry. This can be done any time of year but

the spring is best. When you have got up a stock of large plants, three or four inches across, pot up the largest in the autumn and put the others on a sunny rockery. Both will then throw up beautiful tall flower spikes and those indoors will come a little earlier than the others, and both will require a slender stick to support them. All this will never happen if the large plants do not have the young plants constantly removed.

The *Crassulas* are very useful. *Alpestris* is nearly hardy, the flowers are white and the plant hangs over the side of a pot, *C. impressa* is pink and is only fit for indoor culture, as it flowers in December or January, *C. lactea* is white and increases from pieces broken off and stuck in the side of a pot, it is a lovely friendly thing, so easy to grow and hardly ever seen out of big collections; a temperature never under forty degrees is all these require. All these *Cacti* and succulent plants are illustrated in the catalogue of Friedrich Adolph Haage, jun., Erfurt, Germany; they can all be grown in a cool house heated with an oil stove, which should be lit in the afternoon and burnt all day and night in frosty weather.

The *Crinums* are South African plants; one of the best is *capense*, which grows two to three feet high, so will only do for a big house, it flowers late in summer. *C. Moorei* and *C. ornatum* are smaller, they need abundance of water in summer and very little in winter, not repotting, as they flower much

better pot-bound. Any of these can be grown in the South out of doors. *Pancratium maritimum* and *P. illyricum* are almost hardy but are better grown in pots in the greenhouse. *P. fragrans* I should recommend to be grown even in a small greenhouse for its beauty and its fragrance.

There are many other bulbs which do well in pots. *Lilium auratum* and *Lilium speciosum* should be ordered in January, the cheap small bulbs are not worth growing. They should be potted up for flowering the first year and then planted out as soon as they have done flowering, without cutting off the flower stems, into a peat bed if you have one and treated the following spring as directed before. Ordinary soil will suit them if you have no peat, leave room at the top of the pot to add manure later. When they are first potted stand them in a cold frame or outdoors covered with cocoa-nut fibre or cinders, till some growth begins to show and then bring them into heat and feed them either with cow manure mixed with sand or Clay's fertiliser; water them only when a little dry. Clay's fertiliser must be used with care for pot plants, an egg-spoonful once a week will be enough, sprinkle it on the top of the soil before watering. All the bulbs recommended to be grown in fibre in bowls can be grown in pots in this way in November, ordinary soil made porous with sharp sand (coarse sand) will do for them. *Vallotas* are 'called Scarborough lilies, perhaps because a ship

which was bringing them from the Cape was wrecked off the coast of Yorkshire near Scarborough. They are best potted in June or July when they commence root action before the flower stems are sent up, they like feeding when making their buds, they are so nearly hardy that they are often seen in cottage windows in Norway. Never repot them unless absolutely obliged, as the tighter they are in their pots the better they will flower; when they have flowered, do not cease watering as their leaves must never die away; if they are stood out in the sun in the summer they must be watered, unlike other South African plants. *Nerines* (or Guernsey Lilies) are equally delightful Cape plants. There is a great variety of them, but the best of them is *N. Fothergillii*; it is crimson to scarlet, should be potted in June, and given no water till growth begins; it is increased by the "offsets," the little bulbs which grow round the parent, but must be rarely repotted, the bulbs should be well on the top of the soil. The whole success of growing this handsome plant, which flowers in a greenhouse or window in September and October, depends on the attention given it after flowering, while developing its leaves, when it must be carefully watered and stimulated a little with weak liquid manure before the leaves turn yellow. Manure water should be very weak for pot plants; if what you have in your barrel is at all strong, add water till the liquid is the colour of

weak tea; soot water made by putting a coarse canvas bag filled with soot into a watering pot and filling up with tepid water is good for all foliage plants. When the leaves of the *Nerines* turn yellow watering must be given up and the pots laid on their side on a sunny shelf, till growth begins the following summer. *Tritonia crocata* is another very pretty Cape bulb, very rarely grown, a beautiful orange in colour; it is cultivated like a *Freesia* and has the advantage of increasing rapidly; it should be turned out of its pot, when the leaves are quite dry in summer, repotted in July taking off the little bulblets and putting them in a box apart.

Convolvulus mauritanicus, already recommended for growing out of doors, is useful to grow in a pot or iron basket to hang, also *Fuchsia repens*, which has lovely seed pods, and looks most attractive hung up. *Hedychium Gardnerianum* can be grown out of doors, but is a treasure in a greenhouse; its growth is like a *Canna*, but the flower, yellow and red, has a character quite its own, and it increases rapidly. •

Oleanders, double pink and double white, mentioned elsewhere for growing in tubs, make very charming greenhouse plants; if the cuttings are struck in the August hot-bed and potted up in October they flower the next Summer; it is better to put the cuttings into a bottle of water until the roots begin to grow.

Hydrangeas can also be grown from cuttings, but must not be allowed to flower for the first year.

Francoa ramosa, Bridal Wreath, a Chilian plant, though nearly hardy can be grown from seed, and makes a good pot plant. *Eucalyptus citriodora* is as sweet as lemon-scented Verbena, can also be grown from seed ; the larger kinds of Eucalyptus, if pinched back, make good plants. *Abutilons* flower all the winter ; there are several varieties ; *A. Darwini* is one, which grows very tall, but can be stopped by the first shoot being taken off, this will make it bushy. Some have variegated leaves. Orange Perfection is a beautiful yellow ; a packet of mixed seed will give a variety, and the good ones can be increased from cuttings. They will live in a cool house, but require some heat to make them flower in winter.

Primula obconica is almost hardy, and is grown from seed sown in April ; the little seedlings must be potted as soon as they can be handled, repotted into a larger size as soon as they are full of roots. This can be told by turning the pot upside down and giving it a sharp tap on a wooden bench ; the old plants can be planted out of doors in May.

Cinerarias are very apt to get green fly, and the true blue or the white are the only colours that I think worth growing ; sow them in April. *C. stellata* is a small form with star-like flowers, and is the more satisfactory plant.

Cyclamen persicum is grown from seed sown in

August or September and grown in gentle heat, fifty to sixty degrees, all the winter; they will flower the next year. *Gloxinias* are also grown in the same way, but all these are seen constantly grown to perfection in the conservatories of the rich, and many lesser known plants are more amusing and less trouble; though all can be grown in a cool house, they will not do really well unless there is a steady heat of fifty to sixty degrees. Tuberoses are so sweet-scented and cheap that they are quite worth buying every year; they can be bought in the Spring and potted at once, one bulb in a pot, if you wish them to flower in the Summer; if you prefer the flowers later do not pot them until August; they only require ordinary pot culture; no heating other than the sun is needed to have them in flower before October.

Some annuals are useful in the greenhouse. *Gazania hybrida* and *Browallia speciosa* should be both sown in April in heat, potted into larger pots as they grow, three into the final pot, and kept out of doors until September, the top shoot nipped out to prevent them flowering too early. *Campanula fragilis* is not an annual, but can be grown from seed; it is the pretty hanging *Campanula* beloved and so well grown by cottage dwellers, and must have a shady place and plenty of water. A few of the *Saxifragas* are useful, the Old Mother of Thousands (*S. sarmentosa*) is quite

hardy, but looks very well in a pot ; it can be got from Cannell & Son, Swanley, Kent, as can all the unusual greenhouse plants we mention. *S. sarmencosa tricolor superba* and *S. canadensis* flower in November, and they are both quite hardy, but the latter flowers too late to do well out of doors. *Sparmannia africana* is a most useful winter flowering shrub ; it has a leaf a little like the Catalpa, and grows rather large for a small house, and it likes a good deal of warmth. *Diosma gracilis* has very sweet smelling foliage, it should be nipped back after flowering, it is difficult but not impossible to increase from cuttings, it likes peat and to stand outdoors in summer. *Plumbago* is half hardy, and can be planted outdoors in the summer or kept as a permanent plant in the bed of the greenhouse ; the only care required is to cut the shoots close in winter, after it has flowered, when the leaves decay.

Cobaea scandens makes a splendid creeper for a cool or moderate greenhouse, and grown over the roof, it shades the glass in the summer.

Fuchsias are most useful ; they strike best in heat in March, or without artificial heat all through the summer. Gardeners usually "stop them" by taking out the top shoot ; this causes them to grow short and bushy, but they are much prettier allowed to grow until twelve inches high, and if stopped then will grow into a beautiful standard umbrella shape, and show their lovely drooping

flowers to perfection. Of the old-fashioned kinds, *Fuchsia coccinea* is scarlet, *F. macrantha* is a graceful thing with long, deep pink flowers ; the new kinds are larger and very handsome, Royal Purple ; Washington White, shaded with pink and crimson ; Ballet Girl, double white with red petals. They will live anywhere during the winter if kept free from frost, but lose their leaves if the temperature is under fifty degrees ; *Fuchsias* like leaf mould and sand if peat is not possible. *Salvia splendens* is grown from seeds sown in March in heat, or from cuttings taken in September from old plants ; these *Salvias* must not be confused with the blue *Salvia patens*, which flowers out of doors in July, August, and September. S. Fireball and Victor Emmanuel are both good, many people use them as bedding plants ; if grown in the greenhouse they should be potted up in September, and the flower buds nipped back so that they flower in December.

Azaleas are cheap to buy, and they do very well potted up with a mixture of loam and peat. The old single white scented one is very satisfactory but get it from a good nurseryman, as a scentless one is often substituted for it ; the common yellow *Ghent Azalea* is always worth growing. Both these can be slightly forced year after year if shaded and well watered out of doors in summer. *Solanum hybridum* is grown in the reserve garden all the summer and potted up in autumn ; it

makes a charming Christmas pot plant covered with scarlet berries ; though perennial, it makes better plants if grown every year from seed sown in January.

Calla aethiopica (commonly known as Arum Lily, though it is not a lily at all but a South African form of the Lords and Ladies of our hedges) will do quite well out of doors in Summer in a damp place by pond or river and in warm counties will survive if left in the ground ; but it is also an easily managed pot plant. Here in Surrey we plant them out in a half shady place in the kitchen garden and pot them up in the autumn, when they want lots of water and should always stand in saucers.

The *Lent Hellebores* vary very much in their growth in warm or cold winters. In the former they can be dug up with a large ball of earth as early as the first week in January and if crammed into a flower pot which only just holds them and put into a greenhouse, they will flower better and earlier than those out of doors which are at the mercy of the weather.

Many of the fibrous greenhouse Begonias are very easy to grow and can be had from seed, *Gloire de Sceaux* is very handsome with dark claret leaves and pink flowers. A list of the best will be found in Veitch's catalogue of greenhouse plants. Always keep the catalogues that are sent to

you in a drawer or a shelf, they are most illuminating and useful.

Many plants are beautiful for their foliage. *Tradescantia pulchella* and *T. tumida* are of endless use. There is nothing better for covering the floor under a greenhouse stage where little else will grow, either of them will strike at any time of year in soil or in water. In most greenhouses the ground under the stage is wasted but it is an excellent place in which to grow the half hardy ferns and *Lycopodiums*, etc. The rapidity of the growth of *Tradescantia* is astonishing and the long-suffering patience of their nature is beyond praise; in a pot or basket they soon make fine plants and they will stand draughts and gas and evils of every sort. *Asparagus Sprengeri* is seen in all the flower shops as foliage for bouquets, but other *Asparaguses* are good. *A. plumosus nanus* is a rather dwarfer kind than *A. plumosus* and has flat fern-like fronds. These can all be grown from seed.

All the *Aralias* are pretty with their fern-like foliage. *A. Sieboldii* is almost hardy and *A. Sieboldii Moseri* is of larger growth, *A. elegantissima* is described by its name. *Cocos Weddelliana* are slow growers except in stove heat, but they are of most graceful habit like skeleton palms and can be bought quite small for a few pence, so they are worth growing. Of ferns *Nephrolepis exaltata*,

ensifolia, *N. exaltata superba*, *Pteris Childsii*, *Davallia tenuifolia stricta*, and the large leaved *Adiantums* will do either for windows or greenhouse. Acorns planted in moss, point downwards, twelve or fourteen in a bowl during the Autumn and kept in as warm a place as possible will make a pretty decoration, and the common Asparagus ("Sparrowgrass" as it was originally called) can be sown rather thinly in a pot making a fern-like growth. The bright yellow *Coronilla* is very nearly hardy, it grows and flowers in Winter in Hampshire out of doors and makes a lovely pot plant easily increased from cuttings. All the half hardy *Oxalis* can be grown from seed, they are a very most numerous family and look well hanging up. The great botanical artist, Jacquin, devoted a whole volume to illustrating them. The *Acacia lophantha*, *A. dealbata*, the *Mimosa* of the flower markets, can both be raised from seed. *Mimosa sensitiva* (or sensitive plant) can be grown easily from seed and are interesting to grow from the fact that their peculiarity is a physiological 'mystery'. *Daphne indica alba* will fill a greenhouse with its sweet scent ; it likes peat and flowers in the spring. The difficulty is to resist cutting it, but that kills it at once.

It is quite possible to have a fairly cool house quite gay in Spring by potting up in January many hardy plants from the reserve garden ; these'

should be gradually hardened off, and pruned after flowering and planted out again. The following can all be treated in this way :—The pink and white flowering currant (*Ribes splendens* and *R. albidum*), Lilacs (white and mauve), the single and double *Kerrias* (Jew's Mallow), *Cerasus pseudo-cerasus* (the double sham cherry), *Spiraea Thunbergii* (the earliest of the Spiræas). *S. prunifolia* has graceful sprays of white flowers; in the Autumn the leaves turn a bright crimson and are a great ornament to the garden and nice to cut from ; it grows so fast that it is easy to have some to force every year and still keep some good bushes of it in the garden.

Spiraea japonica is hardy but can be had in flower early by potting them up in February. *Polygonatum* (Solomon's Seal), *Dicentra* (called *Dielytra spectabilis*, Bleeding Heart), are equally good. These last are grown most satisfactorily if plunged into a hot-bed in early Spring for a fortnight before bringing them to the light. Lilies of the Valley can be treated in the same way. *Azalea mollis* can be bought at Prothero's sales in February and March very cheap and full of bud ; they will force well and should then have their seeds carefully cut off and be planted out of doors for the Summer, but must be syringed and well watered in dry weather.

* *Pelargoniums* have been mentioned so often

already that they need no further notice, except to say that the best plants for winter bloom are those eighteen months old, which have stood out during the Summer and had every flower bud nipped off. The cuttings for these should be taken in May and the shoots cut back to form bushy plants and never allowed to flower until the November of the following year. Grow them in forty-eight pots in poor soil and only sprinkle Clay's fertiliser on the surface once a week ; when in flower, keep the plants rather dry.

To touch on Orchids in a book of this description may seem absurd, but it is in some cases only the names of these beautiful flowers that are formidable, the commoner sorts are nothing to be alarmed at. *Dendrobium nobile*, *Oncidium sphacelatum*, and *Odontoglossum crispum* should all be kept in the same pots as long as possible, but *Zygopetalum Mackayi* (the lovely sweet-scented mauve and green-flowered orchid not often seen) should be repotted every year in peat and moss, using plenty of mortar rubbish at the bottom of the pots and using pots which seem rather small as they flower better rather crowded and with the bulbs on the top of the soil. The right time to repot them is after flowering, which will be in March or April according to the heat of the house in which they are grown ; all the year round they must of course have water, more in the summer than in the

dull weather. All the commonest kinds of *Cypripedium* are easy to grow and can be stood out in a cold frame for July and August ; they like plenty of water. Countess of Carnarvon is one of the best, but *Harrisanum* and *C. insigne* are both beautiful. These Orchids, including the *Cypripediums*, have the merit of lasting long in water and travelling well if sent to friends in a box. The great mistake many people make is letting a small glass house get a "stagnant" appearance. If plants are left in it all the year round, and moss and leaves and rubbish allowed to accumulate, blight and mildew are sure to ruin your plants. Keep it all clean, clear away dead flowers and foliage and let in air whenever it is possible ; never try to grow more than you can have properly looked after, but let those plants you have enjoy the healthiest life you can give them.

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